

# Witley Court Service Wing Great Witley Worcestershire



## Buildings Analysis



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*Historic Building Analysis*

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# Witley Court Service Wing, Great Witley, Worcestershire

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# Witley Court Service Wing, Great Witley, Worcestershire

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# Witley Court Service Wing, Great Witley, Worcestershire

## *Historic Building Analysis*

### *Summary*

*From June 2001 to September 2002, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a programme of building recording and interpretation prior to and during conservation work on the churchyard wall at Witley Court, Worcestershire, on behalf of English Heritage. The site record was used to create a database and set of digital drawings in addition to this report. As part of the archaeological services carried out by OA during the project a number of small archaeological excavations were carried out, the results of which are detailed in an annexe to this report. Work continued throughout the restoration and consolidation process.*

*During the course of the project English Heritage extended the scope of works to include the fragile remains of the South Stable block. OA carried out a survey of the south face of the south wall as part of this new work and previous work on the south stables by the Hereford City Archaeological Unit and Archaeological Investigations Ltd has been integrated into OA's work.*

---

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Location and scope of work**

1.1.1 Witley Court, Worcestershire (NGR: SO 769 648, Fig 1, SAM 306) lies in the west of the county some 5 miles to the west of the Severn with its important trading towns of Stourport and Bewdley. Witley Court is a large ruinous house set in a large garden and designed landscape. There has been an important house on this site since the medieval period and the present ruins mostly date from the 17th to 19th centuries. The site is in English Heritage guardianship and is open to the public all year round.

1.1.2 The recording work was carried out in response to a brief set by English Heritage, West Midlands Region and in accordance with a method statement prepared by OA. The work centred on the ruined service court (not open to the public) and particularly the large retaining wall which runs around and forms a revetment to the graveyard of the adjacent church of Saint Michael (not in English Heritage ownership). Later work included some recording in the main house, limited excavation and analysis of the south stables.

### **1.2 Project background**

1.2.1 A number of studies have been carried out on the history and archaeology of Witley Court (see Shoesmith 1999). The east garden, the garden balustrade, and the cellars of the main house have all been the subjects of major excavations, while investigation and recording of the buildings have also been undertaken. The wall

which was the focus of activity has been investigated, photographed and drawn on a number of occasions although little synthesis has been made of this material and there has been little attempt to reconcile the archaeological and historical information.

- **1972-present** English Heritage and Archaeological Investigations Ltd (formerly the City of Hereford Archaeological Unit) have carried out a number of investigations at Witley Court. In 1999 these were catalogued and described by Ron Shoesmith.
- **1982/83** Jeffrey Nicholls drew parts of the retaining walls including the east wall and the eastern part of the southern wall.
- **1995** Richard Morriss prepared an interim report on the western gatehouse and south stable range.
- **1997** Illustrated guidebook prepared by Richard Grey and a volume of historical pictures compiled by Bill Pardoe.
- **1998** Dr Pat Hughes carried out an historical study of the service range (the text of this is included as an appendix to this report).
- **2000** The Churchyard retaining walls recorded by rectified photography.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Recording aims and objectives

2.1.1 The aims of the recording programme were to inform the conservation process and capture information revealed or destroyed during works. The objectives of the recording were:

- to establish the character of the primary work (materials, relation to bedrock, date)
- identify features in the walls or relating to lost buildings against the walls;
- investigate the relationships and phasing of these and other buildings, or of changes to the buildings.

2.1.2 OA have sought to record the structures at Witley Court to an appropriate level to obtain the maximum amount of archaeological information but without engaging in detailed recording without understanding. Previous episodes of recording were co-ordinated with new work, to avoid duplication. The recording work and analysis undertaken by OA placed emphasis on understanding the elements and the phasing of the structures affected by the consolidation work, while seeking to understand the historical function and use of these buildings.

2.1.3 The stable buildings and those along the churchyard retaining wall cannot be studied in isolation from the other domestic buildings at Witley, or from the great house and the estate itself. Future work should attempt to understand not only the more obvious and spectacular remains of the later house but also those of the earlier house and its associated village and church.

## 2.2 Levels of Recording

- 2.2.1 The former Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME now English Heritage) has outlined four levels of recording in their *Recording Buildings a Descriptive Specification* Third Edition 1996, but these do not specifically cover the requirements for detailed investigation and recording of building fabric by archaeological methods. For the present purpose it may be more helpful to categorise the following types of record:
- 2.2.2 **A** - Assessment (equivalent to RCHME Level 3): a summary assessment of the character and phasing of the retaining walls and the neighbouring structures, to form a baseline study for further work.
- 2.2.3 **B** - Photographic Record: photographs and written description, related to existing survey plans, or with added detail plans as necessary.
- 2.2.4 **C** - Investigation and record: detailed examination of fabric, especially where removed or to be replaced during repairs, with photographic and drawn record (at 1:20 scale or greater), and written descriptions related to existing survey. It is important to distinguish between the detailed and careful investigation of the fabric, and detailed recording. Where there are extensive lengths of single-phase walling the recording of outlines and specific events and interventions may be more important than drawing every stone or brick. Thus, the use of overlays to indicate contexts and phasing may often be the primary graphic record, alongside a formal written record. Contexts may be grouped or generalised to avoid the creation of a large number of trivial contexts and the unnecessary proliferation of records.

## 2.3 Fieldwork methods and recording

### 2.3.1 *The Base Survey*

- 2.3.2 The base survey for the present programme of archaeological recording was previously commissioned by English Heritage. This survey includes a full series of rectified photographs which were made available to OA. A later set of rectified photographs were taken for Wheatley and Lines architects which were referred to but not used in this survey. The Drawn Record is partly based upon overlays created from these rectified photos.

### 2.3.3 *The Drawn Record*

- 2.3.4 A series of annotations was made to the pre-existing rectified survey photographs, with additional details added to allow the reconstruction of basic internal elevations. Contexts were added to overlays and numbered. Some details and areas of concern were hand drawn in the traditional manner. Measured and dimensioned sketches and drawings were made of important or previously unrecorded contexts.
- 2.3.5 Plans were based upon a survey supplied digitally by English Heritage in 1997. This plan was amended and added to throughout the work.
- 2.3.6 The drawings of the South Stables are based on originals supplied by Archaeological Investigations Ltd (formerly City of Hereford Archaeological Unit). These were



### 3.5 The Dudleys 1837-1920

- 3.5.1 The Dudley family were at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution, holding major interests in the Black Country through ironworks, coal mines and limestone quarries. Their vast fortune allowed Witley Court to become one of the grandest private dwellings in Europe as they built a new palace, the remains of which survive today, around the Foley's existing mansion. The new house was built in the fashionable Italianate style popularised by the Queen and her consort at Osborne House and the old brick core of the previous house became largely hidden behind Bath stone cladding and render. The new house included a much-enlarged conservatory and massive alterations to the park and grounds were also undertaken.
- 3.5.2 It was during the Dudley phase that the gardens were completely re-landscaped from the Renton deer park gardens of the 18th century to the extravagant landscaping of the parterre gardens. This new garden was designed by one of the greatest contemporary landscape architects of the 19th century, William Andrews Nesfield. These gardens included terraced levels with two centrepiece fountains of neo-classical architecture and pathways of coloured gravels segmenting an elaborate design of flowers and topiary.
- 3.5.3 The excessive luxury and design of the Dudley phase of the house and grounds could not last forever, and in 1920, still well in the era of post-Great War depression, the house was sold to Sir Herbert Smith. This sale was supposedly to raise funds to keep the Dudley's industrial interests, and preserve local jobs. Smith limited the amount of staff and public access to the property by closing long-used footpaths, and introduced a more economical heating system (up to 30 tons of coal a day were reputedly used to heat the building during the Dudley families occupation of the estate) and electricity.
- 3.5.4 In 1937, a fire in the east wing spread into most rooms in the central and eastern part of the house. Although the greater part of the house was untouched, Sir Herbert Smith decided to auction off the remaining assets of Witley Manor. The buildings were sold separately from the land. The structures were sold to demolition contractors and timber merchants felled Lord Foley's woodland.
- 3.5.5 The house and grounds were then left to decay and vandalism with illegal asset stripping until in 1972 the estate came under the guardianship of the Department of the Environment and later English Heritage. The church was not part of the estate as it was the parish church, and so was saved from the ravages of asset stripping and was later restored by a locally organised restoration committee.

### 3.6 Historical records

- 3.6.1 The main repositories for historical material relating to Witley Court are;
- **Dudley Record Office.** This has a number of papers and plans belonging to the Earls of Dudley relating to their estates particularly Himley Hall (Dudley) but also some Witley Court papers.
  - **Worcester Record Office** This record office retains a number of deeds sale particulars account books and letters relating to Witley Court, Great Witley village and the surrounding area.

- **Hereford Record Office** The records here mostly belong to the Foley family (whose main seat is Stoke Edith Herefordshire) and include various account books, wills etc.
- **English Heritage** A number of secondary sources, photographs and printed material are held by English Heritage both at Birmingham regional office and the National Monuments Record, Swindon Wilts.

3.6.2 Previous historical work on Witley Court (notably the study commissioned by English Heritage from Dr. Pat Hughes 1998) had examined many of the known sources of information. OA has augmented this earlier work by consulting a number of sources and looking at various maps, plans and illustrations of the court (see bibliography), but a further stage of detailed historical investigation has not been undertaken.

### 3.7 Building Phases at Witley Court

3.7.1 On the basis of existing historical studies, the following phases of building activity have been recognised, and have been adopted for the purposes of convenient description. These are mostly named after the families inhabiting the house at various dates. They have not been over-rigorously applied to all features, and many areas of uncertainty remain, especially in the dating of minor phases of addition and alteration.

- |                  |   |                               |
|------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Phase 1</b>   | <b>1400-1500</b>  | <b>Late Medieval</b>          |
|                  | The Medieval House: Robert Russell's house built after 1498   |                               |
| <b>Phase 2</b>   | <b>1600-1665</b>  | <b>The Russells</b>           |
|                  | The house rebuilt c 1600  |                               |
| <b>Phase 3</b>   | <b>1655-1700</b>  | <b>The Early Foleys</b>       |
|                  | The house altered and rebuilt 1677  |                               |
| <b>Phase 4</b>   | <b>1700-1750</b>  | <b>The Middle Foleys</b>      |
|                  | Extensive modernization and expansion, 1725-30.<br>Building of early detached service wings<br>New church built in 1735               |                               |
| <b>Phase 5i</b>  | <b>1750-1837</b>  | <b>The Later Foleys</b>       |
|                  | c1805 service blocks demolished<br>Nash porticoes erected on north and south sides  |                               |
| <b>Phase 5ii</b> | <b>c 1805</b>   | <b>Nash</b>                   |
|                  | New Stable Block and Service Buildings  |                               |
| <b>Phase 6</b>   | <b>1837-1870</b>  | <b>The Early Dudley House</b> |
|                  | Building works of Samuel Whitfield Daukes<br>Curved wing added to the kitchen court<br>House and church clad in Bath stone and render |                               |
| <b>Phase 7</b>   | <b>1870-1937</b>  | <b>The Later Dudley House</b> |
|                  | Minor works and repairs   |                               |



**Phase 8 1937-1972 Destruction**

Fire (1937) and subsequent decay and destruction. House used as quarry for materials. Service wing used as mushroom farm and canning factory before partial demolition.

**Phase 9 1972- Guardianship**

Consolidation and repairs under DoE/English Heritage Guardianship

**4 BUILDING ANALYSIS: INTRODUCTION****4.1 General Description**

- 4.1.1 The service range lies to the west of the main house almost hidden beneath the churchyard wall and in the lee of the main house. The ground level in this area is deeply terraced into the soft local red sandstone bedrock. It is overlooked by a substantial brick wall, which forms a revetment to the churchyard of the early 18th-century church which looms over the whole site.
- 4.1.2 This substantial wall has a number of buildings built against it including the kitchen scullery, stores, stables, tunnels and laundry. These are all now fragmentary and their scant remains have been the focus of OA's investigation. Understanding these important domestic buildings, their relative dates and how they functioned is an important element in interpreting how this great house functioned.
- 4.1.3 The service courts lie at the base of the terraced hill in a roughly east-west strip. In their last phases of occupation they were accessed from the west via an extension of the driveway to the church. This led through ornamental iron gates (decorated with Egyptian papyrus capitals) to the entrances to two brick walled yards. The north yard contained a farrier's shop, stores etc and was based around a large square courtyard. In its north-west corner was a small raised drying green accessed by a ramp. To the south of this yard lay another smaller yard accessed by wooden gates from the west. This was the coach house yard and had two rectangular coach houses on its west side and a larger coach house on its south side. To its north lay offices and stables and on its east a large gatehouse topped with a clock in a domed cupola.
- 4.1.4 East of this yard and accessed through the gatehouse was the large rectangular stable yard. This had stable blocks to the north and south sides and a gatehouse to the east. These buildings now only survive as the north wall of the north block and the south wall of the south. The gatehouses on the east and west sides also survive although the west gatehouse has been heavily rebuilt and the east is very dilapidated. Despite the almost complete destruction of most buildings the ground floor surfaces survive remarkably well although in places they have been covered by the concrete rafts of later temporary hutting.
- 4.1.5 Through the eastern gatehouse, one could access the Kitchen or Nursery Court; this was an almost triangular shaped courtyard with arcades on its north and south sides. On the east lies the rear of the three-storey curving nursery wing and the gatehouse itself makes up the west wall. Off this courtyard lay the Servants Hall, the Laundry, the Housekeepers Rooms, the Gun Room and the Kitchen. Again, these buildings

have almost entirely vanished save for part of the arcade and the outer shells of the buildings.

- 4.1.6 Another important part of the service courts was a substantial yard to the south of the stables and the north of the conservatory (this contained a very large underground boiler situated under the conservatory and ramps for sorting and moving coal on an almost industrial scale). From this yard one could access a number of underground rooms and tunnels including a miniature tramway for moving coal and other heavy items.
- 4.1.7 To the north of the kitchen between the church and house is a small irregular courtyard which was largely filled with small game larders and stores. This is the easternmost area of the Service Courts although many of the house's domestic tasks, (bakery, dairy, still room etc) took place in the basements under the main house

## 4.2 Survey Zones

- 4.2.1.1 The focus of the project was the recording of the churchyard wall in the Service Court before and during major consolidation and repair works carried out on behalf of English Heritage from June-February 2001. This survey was necessitated by the very poor condition of the walls, which were both losing many features of archaeological interest and were more importantly in danger of collapse.

- 4.2.2 The areas of the service courts adjacent to the retaining wall have been divided by OA into five distinct zones for the purpose of description and analysis.

- **Zone 1** The Western Courtyard

The tunnel adjacent to the former drying green (this green was later enclosed to form additional stables and offices). This zone includes an area of tunnel and part of the churchyard retaining wall.

- **Zone 2** The Stables

This zone includes the churchyard retaining wall, the passageway or tunnel which once connected the laundry and the drying green and the rear wall of a now largely vanished stable block. The stables are made up of fragmentary remains of north and south blocks. The north block was the focus of OA work whereas the south block had been previously recorded and analysed by the City of Hereford Archaeological Unit, the results of this earlier work are summarised at the end of the analysis of Zone 2.

- **Zone 3** The Laundry

In this report the laundry refers to both the laundry block and washroom as well as the housekeepers quarters above and numerous cellars and sub-basements below. The main survival is the elevation of the rear wall of the building the

below ground remains of associated structures and the impressive arcade which fronted the building. This almost vanished building fronted the Kitchen Court.

- **Zone 4 The Kitchens**

A large chimney block dominates the remains of the kitchen, flues from throughout the adjacent buildings and two large fireplaces all joined the massive central chimney here. The remains of the kitchen itself are somewhat scant although it has been possible to reconstruct its form and appearance. This stack forms the western wall of the kitchen and is within the study zone, the north, south and eastern walls are outside of the study area.

- **Zone 5 The East Wall of the Churchyard**

This massive retaining wall formerly had a number of buildings leaning against it including a scullery and plucking room and a small scullery court yard. The retaining wall is partially made up of sandstone blocks and partly of brickwork of various periods. A number of flues are clearly visible in the wall but during repair a great many more were located within the thickness of the wall.

#### 4.3 Structure of Report

4.3.1 For the purposes of this report the Service Courts have been divided into five zones representing different groups of buildings affected by the recent restorations. Each zone is discussed in the text with the following subsections;

- **Introduction** A brief introduction detailing the location and extent of each zone, history, phasing and development of fabric
- **History** An assessment of the available historical material for each zone and a table giving a summary of the zone's development.
- **Phasing and Development of Fabric** A phase by phase discussion of the development of each zone from the earliest features to the present day.
- **General Description of Fabric** An outline of the elements and structures within the zone.
- **Detailed Description of Fabric** An in-depth description of the fabric discussing important elements within each zone.

## 5 ZONE 1: THE CHURCHYARD WEST WALL

### 5.1 Introduction (Figs. 5-6)

5.1.1 This zone is made up of the southern part of the churchyard's western revetment wall and the tunnel and ramp which have been built against it. This tunnel was a late addition to the walkway running from the laundry to the drying green. It seems never to have acted as a passage and was not an extension of the adjacent tunnel. It predates the ramp to the drying green and therefore the walkway along its roof is also somewhat later. The tunnel itself was once pierced by a number of doors and windows for which ample evidence remains and it has undergone substantial remodelling on several occasions. A range of buildings was attached to the western side of this tunnel but they have now almost entirely disappeared. These buildings included stabling and offices.

### 5.2 History

5.2.1 There is little direct history relating to this part of the Service Courts. Historic maps and plans help show the development of the yard and the shrinkage of the original drying green but there is little evidence of how these buildings looked or what their original function was.

5.2.2 Historic maps show there were no buildings in this area before the Nash redesign in or around 1805; this replaced the older flanking service wings to the north of the house with new buildings to the west. By the plan of 1817, a whole outer court is shown in this area with a range of buildings east of a large drying green (Hughes 1998).

5.2.3 The only known early image of this area is a single photograph of about 1900 and this shows the exterior of the building which lay to the west of the tunnel. It is a single storey structure with arched windows and doors and a small white wooden louvered ventilator on top of a shallow pitched slate roof (Hughes 1998).

Table 1 Summary of Development in Zone 1		
Phase	Events	Evidence
Phase 1 1400-1500 Medieval	It is not known when the earliest terracing took place in this area. The medieval church sat on the western side of the hill and there is likely to have been a natural slope below it.	
Phase 2 1600-1665 Russells	As above	As above
Phase 3 1655-1700 Early Foleys	As above	Massive sandstone foundations of enlarged Foley mansion lie to the immediate east.
Phase 4 1700-1750 Late Foleys	The new church is constructed by 1733 to the east of the medieval one. The churchyard wall may also date from this period as may the terracing.	Lack of evidence of roofing and location slightly apart from main house.

**Table 1 Summary of Development in Zone 1**

Phase	Events	Evidence
Phase 5 1750-1837 V(1) Nash 1805	Addition of the extended block running from the outer courtyard (Zone 1), through the north stables (Zone 2), the laundry (Zone 4). Terracing in Zone 1 must have been completed by this date. Earliest phases of tunnel and access to drying green date from this period.	A phase of massive rebuilding and improvement with the addition of long continuous wings throughout the service area. The tunnel was most probably constructed around this time.
Phase 6 1837-1870 Daukes	Later additions and improvements to fittings	Various phases of windows and doors show the tunnel was modified several times
Phase 7 1870-1937 Fire and Destruction	As above.	
Phase 8 37-1972 Guardianship	Abandonment and demolition. Many buildings are demolished in the 1940s for their scrap value. The tunnel is reused as a mushroom farm. The windows and doors are blocked, vents inserted and internal partitions removed.	Many locals remember the demolition and numerous oral accounts have been passed on.
Phase 9 1972 Present	The tunnel is reused as a store for architectural fragments and building tools.	John Westwood (pers. comm.)

### 5.3 Phasing and Development of Fabric

#### 5.3.1 Phase 4 1700-1750 The Middle Foleys

5.3.2 It has been possible to reconstruct the sequence of events in this area from historic maps and plans. The churchyard wall Phase 4 is seemingly the oldest feature and has clearly undergone successive phases of alteration and repair including numerous patches and areas of rebuilding throughout its history. This wall is probably associated with the siting of the new church and the creation of the new graveyard in or around 1733.

5.3.3 The next building in the sequence which is still extant is the tunnel itself, this provided a series of rooms behind the buildings of the outer court. This arrangement stayed essentially the same apart from the blocking of old windows and doors and the inserting of new ones. On the plan of 1817, much of the area is a drying green, which is accessed from the laundry via a tunnel.

#### 5.3.4 Phase 5 (1) c 1805 Nash - Phase 7 1870-1937

5.3.5 By 1837 the courtyard and tunnel extension had been built and the drying green had dwindled to a small raised area in the northwest corner of the service area. It was at this point that the raised walkway along the top of the tunnel was built as well as the predecessor to the extant ramp. Maps of 1817 and 1837 show buildings attached to the west of the tunnel. The ground floor rooms of these buildings must have been connected to the tunnel and the blocked doors and windows now visible would have looked either into the yard or into rooms. The map of 1842 shows the tunnel clearly but there are no signs of buildings being attached to it.



5.3.6 The tunnel is indicated on plans of 1817, 1837 and 1842 as opening onto a small courtyard in the northwest of the Service Courts and enclosed by the churchyard wall. This court contained a number of stables as well as offices and tack rooms. The stables lay on the north side of the yard and the stall divisions are still visible in the surviving wall. On the east side lay the tunnel. However this is shown on the plan of 1888 as being divided into four separate rooms. The northern part was a room with access to the stables; to the south of this lay a harness room with a door accessing to the courtyard. To the south of this was an office again with a door to the courtyard. Finally, the plumbers shop occupied the southernmost end of the tunnel. The southern part of the courtyard was made up of a blacksmith's shop, fitter's shop and the western part by more stabling (both these areas have been almost entirely destroyed above ground).

#### 5.3.7 *Phase 8 1937-1972 Destruction*

5.3.8 By the Second World War the tunnel was being used as a mushroom factory. The doors and windows were blocked, the partitions removed and ventilation grilles were added low in the wall. The outer court seems to have remained intact until the 1950s when like much of the service courts it was demolished to provide access to its raw materials. Of the entire outer court the churchyard wall and the tunnel are by far the most substantial surviving remains.

### 5.4 **General Description of Fabric (Figs 5-6)**

5.4.1 The main feature in this zone is the vaulted tunnel, which runs roughly north-south alongside and to the west of the churchyard retaining wall. The tunnel has a number of blocked features and the scars of successive building phases. It was added to an earlier retaining wall possibly to add stability and increased storage space. At its southern end, the tunnel joins a similar (and far longer) tunnel running behind the former stable block (Zone 2). The northern end of the tunnel is now defined by a ramp which slopes down from the tunnel's roof towards the small grassed drying green, which lies a short distance to the west.

5.4.2 Along the flat roof of the tunnel lies a flat concrete roof. In the past, it appears that this roof had a secondary function as a walkway or gangway giving access to the stable block and drying green (this joins with a similar walkway in Zone 2). A number of brick vents with galvanised iron heads run along the walkway. The tunnel is now only accessible through a door to the south although there are a number of (blocked) doors and windows in its northern and western walls.

5.4.3 The blocked doors and windows are mostly sited along the western wall of the tunnel although a single blocked window sits high up on the northern wall. The blocked openings have all had later iron grilles built into their blocking material. The tunnel interior is whitewashed and a number of scars of demolished internal partitions are visible. Around a blocked door at the northern end, false voussoirs are inscribed into the limewash elsewhere in the interior the brick splays of the windows remain in situ.

5.4.4 On the exterior, the blocked features are less defined although it is easy to discern that there are at least two phases of building and some doors and windows clearly cut

into pre-existing features. The doors and windows are all capped by shallow arches and are all of similar dimensions. An L-shaped wall projects from the tunnel and this is coated inside and out with render inscribed with false ashlar (a scheme found throughout the service courts at Witley originating with Nash but continuing to be used in later repairs and alterations).

- 5.4.5 Unlike its neighbouring tunnel in Zone 2 this tunnel seems to have been a building with various rooms and appears to have never been used as an access route to the drying green. The construction of the vault may have been primarily to act as stabilisation for the wall behind and its role as rooms may have only been secondary. The roof of the tunnel has been floored and it acts as a continuation of the raised walkway in Zone 2. Plans and accounts show that this walkway was used to access the drying green from the laundry without having to go through the stable block. On the northern part, the walkway opens out onto a ramp, which slopes towards the remains of the green. A blocked window in the tunnel is now blocked by this ramp and evidently predates it, this indicates that the ramp itself may be a relatively recent addition or has undergone extensive remodelling.

## 5.5 Detailed Description of Fabric (Figs 5-6)

### 5.5.1 *Churchyard Wall*

- 5.5.2 The churchyard wall defines the eastern edge of this zone and is the earliest feature (165). It is constructed of bricks of a standard 18th or 19<sup>th</sup>-century type laid neatly. A corbelled brick coping which is only seen on this section caps the wall of the churchyard (161). To the south the churchyard wall increases in height and is topped with limestone coping stones.

- 5.5.3 The wall has evidently had some structural problems and a number of buttresses built on top of the tunnel attest to this (145, 162, 163, 164, 168, 169, 176). These buttresses belong to several different phases (some very modern in appearance) and indicate that this wall has undergone successive episodes of stabilisation and repair. There are also a number of seemingly modern repairs to the fabric using cementitious mortar and in places modern brick (167).

### 5.5.4 *The Tunnel*

- 5.5.5 *Construction:* The interior of the tunnel consists of one large chamber running north-south with a continuous barrel roof. The chamber was evidently once divided into separate rooms although the walls have been whitewashed obscuring the evidence of partition walls. How far these (rather thin) partitions are original is unknown but they correspond to the doors and windows which do appear to be primary. The chamber is whitewashed throughout and this has obscured many details. The floor surface has been covered in concrete obscuring valuable evidence. The tunnel is accessed from the south by large modern wooden double doors.

- 5.5.6 *Windows, doors and other openings:* The most visible features are the blocked doors and windows which are clearly visible on the west wall, these have all again been whitewashed over. The window nearest the door on the western wall still has its stone sill and splay (168). On the north wall, there is another small window high on

the wall and this is unusual as it looks out into the make up of the ramp. A series of small vents complete with louvered iron covers are found all along the west wall (125). These vents are mostly inserted into blocked doors and are relatively recent in date. Around the internal splay of the two northernmost windows on the west wall are the remains of incised false voussoirs, which have been picked out in paint (169).

- 5.5.7 The interior space was used until relatively recently as storage space and was fitted out with racking to hold architectural salvage particularly timbers. This racking has left vertical scars on the floor and walls. Part of the brick vault has also been repaired with concrete, which still bears the impression of corrugated iron shuttering.
- 5.5.8 *Exterior:* The only visible exterior part of the tunnel is the west wall, which faced into the now demolished outer courtyard. Only one fragment remains of the buildings of the outer court this being a small L-shaped projecting wall (124). This wall is coated with render decorated with incised false ashlar.
- 5.5.9 *Walkway:* The top of the wall is covered in a thick layer of concrete. This may cover an earlier floor surface although this is not obviously apparent. There are a number of vents cutting through to the tunnel below and these are made up of brick bases with iron grilles and topped with galvanised sheet iron ventilators (some of which are missing). Despite being often called a walkway there is little sign that it was ever widely used as an access route.
- 5.5.10 At the south end of the walkway over the door of the tunnel and at the junction of this tunnel with its neighbour in Zone 2 building demolition has destroyed part of the tunnel. This makes the length of the walkway somewhat narrow at this end.
- 5.5.11 *Floor surfaces:* The courtyard itself is presently covered with stacks of architectural fragments from elsewhere in the site. These fragments lie on a thin layer of soil, which obscures but protects the ground surface below. During building work it was necessary to remove some of these stones and this exposed floor surfaces and wall lines beneath the soil. These correspond to the courtyard structures shown on the 1888 plan (for OA plan, see Fig. 2).
- 5.5.12 *The Ramp*
- 5.5.13 The ramp leads from the walkway to the drying green below; this is outside the study area but is briefly discussed here as it is connected to the churchyard wall and was cleared of rubble during conservation work. This ramp is made up of a large earthen bank supported by the rear wall of a stable to the south and with a stretch of the churchyard wall to the north.
- 5.5.14 The ramp rather than being an entirely built up surface follows the natural contours of the hill and the yard below has been terraced out from this hillside. Since state ownership this area was used to store a massive amount of broken and largely unsalvageable architectural fragments. During recent work it became necessary to remove these and an OA archaeologist was on site when this was carried out. There was some soil disturbance during this operation and it was noted that the disturbed deposits were very recent (plastic bags and modern rubbish were noted). Large quantities of material from elsewhere were reputedly dumped on this ramp and the



drying green in the 1970s and again in the early 1990s. The damaged stone fragments were stored on top of this surface.

## 6 ZONE 2: THE NORTH STABLE BLOCK

### 6.1 Introduction (Figs 7-11)

6.1.1 The service area at Witley Court was dominated by the large and impressive stable block, which took up the central section of the service area. Unlike many of the domestic areas at Witley the stables were given adequate space and were built in a lavish and grand manner. The main stable area consisted of a large rectangular open paved courtyard with two-storied stable blocks on the north and south sides, and large gatehouses on the east and west sides. The stables were set into an area terraced into the hill beneath the parish church, and from the graveyard one could look down over the roof of the north stable block and into the main yard.

### 6.2 History (Reconstruction, Figure 7)

6.2.1 The number of archival sources directly relating the ruinous stable blocks at Witley Court appears to be somewhat limited. There are a number of pictorial sources including 18th and 19<sup>th</sup>-century maps and paintings, perhaps the most important of these being a plan of the roofs by Josiah Griffiths dating from 1837. There are a number of written sources relating to the stables.

6.2.2 A number of photographs survive of the stable yard in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and while these photos concentrate mostly on the horses and riders they also give some invaluable views of the buildings themselves.

6.2.3 An unexpectedly rich source of information has been the memories of local people who remember the stables before demolition in the middle of the last century, and have been able to provide a clearer picture of vanished structures, fittings etc.

6.2.4 The reconstruction is based on archaeological and pictorial evidence. Parts of the exterior are shown on a series of photographs ranging from the late 19th century to 1937 (see Hughes 1996). The doors relate to the lobbies and are wide to allow horses to be led in and out of the block. Note the chimneys at the centre of the roof, these must relate to now entirely vanished iron stoves on the ground or first floor. The chimneys for the fireplaces in the lobby emerged from the churchyard (some chimneys are omitted in the reconstruction for clarity. The flat glazed roof of the tunnel and the pitched roof are clearly depicted on the 1937 photograph.

**Table 2 Summary of Development in Zone 2**

Phase	Events	Evidence
<i>Phase 1</i> 1400-1500 Medieval	Unknown	Later terracing in this area has removed any traces of earlier activity.
<i>Phase 2</i> 1600-1665 Russells	Unknown	As above
<i>Phase 3</i> 1655-1700 Early Foleys	Possible phases of terracing and building in or near this area.	A late 17th century painting (now lost) Hughes shows the south side of this hill

**Table 2 Summary of Development in Zone 2**

Phase	Events	Evidence
<i>Phase 4</i> 1700-1750 Late Foleys	The creation of the new church in 1733 may coincide with the terracing in this area and the construction of the first churchyard wall..	Historic maps and plans
<i>Phase 5</i> 1750-1837 V(1) Nash 1805	Addition of the extended block running from the outer courtyard (Zone 1), through the north stables (Zone 2), the laundry (Zone 4). The stable block sits slightly forward of the newly created tunnel which runs from the laundry to the drying green.	A phase of massive rebuilding and improvement with the addition of long continuous wings throughout the service area.
<i>Phase 6</i> 1837-1870 Daukes	The interior of the stables is remodelled; this includes the addition of new floor surfaces, stable bays and decoration. Most significantly, new lobbies are inserted which block the course of the old tunnel.	.
<i>Phase 7</i> 1870-1937 Fire and Destruction	Later minor modifications to the stables include the addition of water trough and areas of new tiling.	
<i>Phase 8</i> 1937-1972 Guardianship	Abandonment and demolition during the 1940s. The north stables were almost entirely destroyed. The south stables had a large single-story shed built in the interior.	Many locals remember the demolition and numerous oral accounts have been passed on. 1950s photos in the collection of the NMR show the south stables after demolition.
<i>Phase 9</i> 1972 Present	Area closed to visitors, restoration commenced 2001	EH papers

### 6.3 Phasing and Development of Fabric (Figs 9-11)

6.3.1 The earliest identifiable activity on this site is the terracing of the hillside to create the large flat area on which the stables sit. This terracing was dug into the hill on the summit of which stood the predecessor of the present church, but it is unclear when this terracing was carried out but it must have predated the surviving structures of which the earliest is the churchyard wall itself.

#### 6.3.2 *Phase 4 1700-1750 The Middle Foleys*

6.3.3 After the first stage of terracing the churchyard wall must have been added, and this may well have been contemporary with the demolition of the medieval church and the construction of the present classical building in the 1740s. The regular size and the flatness of the churchyard may be a product of this rebuilding. It seems likely that the original hill would have sloped somewhat (as it still does on its northern and western sides) and that the ground level was raised to create the flat rectangular graveyard visible today. The present wall was most probably created to retain this make up level.

#### 6.3.4 *Phase 5 (1) c 1805 Nash*

6.3.5 The next period of activity was the building of both the stable blocks, hitherto assumed to be part of Nash's work of c.1805. The north stable block was a two-storied building with pitched roof, the ground floor was accessed from the courtyard

by two wide and tall doors with shallow arched tops. The upper floor was accessed from the walkway along the tunnel and was lit by rectangular windows along most of its length and an oval one at its east end. Historic photographs show that the ground floor windows had rectangular glazing bars dividing eight panes on the lower window and eight on the upper (Hughes 1998). The windows were painted white and the upper half opened by tilting at its centre (whilst none of the windows remain these details are clearly visible on period photos). The brick built exterior of the stable block was rendered in the same style and presumably colour as the surviving gatehouses. Historical sources suggest there was originally an open passageway between the stable and the churchyard wall

6.3.6 The next phase of activity was the insertion of the covered passage or tunnel. This was vaulted and roofed over before 1837 (Griffiths 1837). The tunnel also truncated an earlier wall on the same alignment as the east wall of the stable block (this is visible as a chiselled away wall in the east end of the tunnel). This truncation suggests that the stable itself may predate the tunnel, which was originally an open passageway and later roofed over.

6.3.7 The earliest interior scheme of the north stables is unknown, although areas of paint/plaster beneath the render hint at the placing of stalls. During clearing of a drain a small area of square green glazed ceramic tiles was noted beneath the later floor of blue black square brick sets incised with false cobbles, and it seems likely that these belong to an earlier floor level.

6.3.8 *Phase 7 1870-1937 The Later Dudley House*

6.3.9 In the 1850s the house was extensively remodelled by Daukes and it seems most likely that during this period the stables were reordered and the interiors redesigned. The reordering saw the insertion of the heated lobbies or rooms, the relaying of the floor with blue brick sets and brick, the creation of new stable bays with iron columns and timber and iron bays and the blocking off the old tunnel.

6.3.10 This was the last major phase of development although some of the fixtures and fittings now visible may be the products of later alteration and modification. The stables survived the fire of 1937 and in newspaper photographs of the time, they seem to be intact. A local remembers that the north block was used for storage both before and after the fire and once contained a disassembled Bleriot monoplane used by the pioneer airman Gustav Hamel.

6.3.11 *Phase 8 1937-1972 Destruction*

6.3.12 During the Second World War a mushroom farm and a jam factory were known to have occupied the site. The bottling plant of the jam factory seems to have been in the eastern gatehouse and a number of jars and lids still survive in its attic. It seems likely that the north stable block was also used by the bottling plant or the mushroom growers.

6.3.13 The north stable block was finally demolished in or soon after the Second World War so that its materials could be sold by the then owners. It appears from the surviving fabric that ironwork was the demolition workers' main target, the iron

columns fronting the stable bays being all sawn or sheared off near their bases, while the rails and screens supporting the stall divisions have been hacked out leaving only scant traces. During the demolition the south front, the east and west walls and the upper half of the north wall were destroyed leaving the remains we see today. After demolition the site was used both as an access route and several of workmen's huts were sited here on concrete rafts.

#### 6.4 General Description of Fabric (Figs 9-11)

- 6.4.1 This area of the service yard has undergone extensive damage and demolition since the fire of 1937 and the north stable block survives mainly as one wall and its associated brick vaulted tunnel. The south block survives only in part although its massive south wall is almost intact (but is in a very fragile condition). The west gatehouse with its clock cupola was recently (in the 1980s) heavily restored and repaired and is largely intact. The eastern gatehouse is also in reasonable condition and retains part of its roof structure and a well preserved room (both gatehouses lie outside the study area).
- 6.4.2 Despite the fragmentary nature of the surviving structures within the stable blocks, it is possible to reconstruct their exterior form and appearance not only from the standing remains but also from a number of historic plans and photos (Hughes 1998). These photos mostly date to the late 19th or early 20th century and although the subjects are either people and/or horses rather than the buildings themselves, they give an invaluable glimpse of now vanished structures.
- 6.4.3 The surviving section of wall formed the rear (north) wall of the north stable block. This wall lay slightly to the south of the churchyard wall, which was cut into the old hillside and looms above the stable yard. The gap between the two walls was filled by a long vaulted passage or tunnel, which supported the churchyard wall and originally provided an access route from the kitchen/laundry area to the drying green to the west. The upper part of the tunnel had a tile floored open walkway which would have provided the only access to the floor above the stable and when the tunnel itself became defunct was used as a route to the drying green from the laundry.
- 6.4.4 Despite their somewhat fragmentary state the surviving structures retain a number of features and as work has progressed it has proved possible to gain some understanding of the phasing, construction and appearance of the buildings and some of its fixtures and fittings.
- 6.4.5 The on-site work was mostly carried out before consolidation and scaffolding work began. After the commencement of work the scaffolding, the removal of waste, loose material and plants allowed greater access than had previously been possible. Some areas of the wall (particularly the walkway along the tunnel) were made safe and accessible for the first time since demolition. During restoration, few new features were revealed in this zone although some floor surfaces were uncovered and exposed.



## 6.5 Detailed Description of Fabric (Figs 9-11)

6.5.1 The stable block area is made up of a number of discrete elements and these are:

- The Churchyard Wall
- The Tunnel
- The Stable Bays and North Wall
- Stable Lobbies

### 6.5.2 *Churchyard wall*

6.5.3 This massive brick wall acts as the retaining wall of Saint Michael's Church and as a revetment to support the substantial make-up of the graveyard. The wall however fronts the bedrock, and the extent of this has been plotted by boreholes and excavation. The sandstone bedrock has been deeply terraced away and levelled to the south and the main buildings sit on this terrace.

6.5.4 The wall has undergone a great deal of patching and repair (143). Several of these patches are made with the same hard-grey cementitious mortar and are recent in date whilst other repairs appear to be far older. The main build of the wall however is almost certainly of one phase and its construction and location suggest that it may belong to the mid-18th century or later. It is possible that the construction of the wall may be associated with the rebuilding of the parish church.

6.5.5 *Brickwork:* The bricks are mostly of the characteristic local deep red colour and a relatively hard, although as elsewhere at Witley bricks of a number of colours are used - mostly hand-made of an 18th-19th century type. The mortar is a white, crumbly and lime rich composition, and the bricks are laid in English bond and topped with a single course of coping stones. The coping stones themselves are made of hard yellow/white limestone of a type found in nearby Abberley. They are shaped and angled to shed the rain and the upper surfaces are covered with pecked chiselling which is a common local motif and is probably purely decorative.

6.5.6 *Render:* At the west end of the wall on the lowest visible part at the junction with the walkway lies an area of render only c 100mm wide. This is the only clear indication that the wall was at least partly rendered.

6.5.7 *Roof of tunnel:* There is some indication on historic plans and photos (the newspaper aerial photographs of 1937 shows this most clearly; see Hughes 1998) that at least part of this walkway was provided with a glass roof. The evidence for such a roof is limited although a simple iron bracket hanging on the wall may have helped support a lightweight roof of some sort and this is suggested in the aerial photograph of 1947 (Hughes 1998). This roof would have projected from the missing upper part of the north wall of the stable block and rested on the upper part of the churchyard wall on rather insubstantial brackets.

#### 6.5.8 *Tunnel*

- 6.5.9 Between the stable block and the churchyard wall lies the remains of a brick tunnel which allowed access from the kitchen court to the drying green both within the original tunnel and along the walkway above (150). The tunnel is narrow and is constructed of a solid barrel vault braced along its length by a series of inserted brick arches. The floor is brick lined and several steps define changes in floor level. The tunnel is now blocked in several places and has been entirely truncated by two inserted tack rooms. The easternmost part of the tunnel has been long blocked and seems to have been disused in the later years of the house.
- 6.5.10 The tunnel appears to have been constructed to allow laundry maids to travel from the laundry to the drying green without going through the stables. This is based on historic references to a passageway (see Hughes 1998) and also popularly survives in local oral history (local residents pers. comm.). Plans show that between 1837 and 1842 the area of the drying green was substantially reduced (Hughes 1998). It is most likely in this period that the north-south extension of the tunnel was added as part of the building of the new outer court. With the new layout the green was now accessed by a gangway along the top of the tunnel and this led to a ramp which ran down into the much smaller drying green.
- 6.5.11 *Construction:* The tunnel vault was sandwiched between the north stable block and the churchyard, and although the tunnel was used as an access route its main function may have been structural. The vault may have been designed primarily to support the churchyard wall, although it is now pulling away from this wall and adding to its instability). It would also have provided stability for the rear wall of the stable block. The somewhat worn brick flooring surviving in places indicates that the tunnel was used as a routeway before being blocked. It appears to have been latterly used for storage. Unlike the tunnel in Zone 1 it was not suitable for use as rooms.
- 6.5.12 The interior of the tunnel has survived in remarkably good condition and has seen little alteration and addition. Few features were noted which required additional recording and the area was largely untouched by repair and consolidation work. The walkway along the upper part of the tunnel was made up of at least two types of quarry tiles (of a local hard, dark red, high-fired form). The later vents have cut this floor surface although grilles may have originally covered them. This walkway was drained by a slight camber feeding into small open spaces beside each of the lobbies, with the remains of cast iron drainpipes and hopper heads
- 6.5.13 *Phasing:* At least three distinct phases of building were identified during the survey. The churchyard wall was the earliest event, and the lower part of this must lie behind the north part of the tunnel wall. The stables followed, since when the tunnel was built to cover the passageway between the churchyard and the stables it utilised both of the earlier structures and it took the form of a vaulted brick liner inserted between them both. The tunnel is of one build and most probably dates from after the Nash's work at the Court after 1805 but before the work of Daukes (Hughes 1995 Morriss 1995).

- 6.5.14 The next major phase of activity is the insertion of the lobbies and the blocking off of the tunnel. This seems to have occurred during the remodelling carried out under the direction of Samuel Daukes. The lobbies are two rooms (probably tack rooms) cut into the length of the tunnel and roofed over with shallow ceramic tile arches. These rooms seem to have been inserted so that fireplaces and flues could be cut into the rear wall of the former tunnel. A boiler was also inserted in the western lobby. The fireplaces may have helped keep tack and equipment dry and heated the rooms. During Daukes's remodelling ventilation to the stables was improved and a number of vents (one for each bay), were inserted into the north wall of the stables and these cut into the fabric of the tunnel.
- 6.5.15 Later alteration to the tunnels was restricted to the addition or alteration to a series of vents or skylights up to the walkway above. The surviving brickwork on the upper parts of these vents suggests that they may be relatively recent in origin although the openings below may be much older.
- 6.5.16 *North Wall of Stables*
- 6.5.17 This survives as the southern wall of the tunnel (discussed above) but it is treated separately here because it has a wealth of features unrelated to the tunnel itself. The most interesting of these features is the mass of (often slight) remains and scars left by the interior fittings of the stable block. It has been possible to deduce from these something of the appearance and phasing of the interior of the stables. This wall is now divided into four separate sections because of the insertion of the lobbies but it is treated here as a single unit. The surviving remains represent only the lower part of the north wall of the stables, the upper part above the level of the walkway having been entirely destroyed. Damage to the surviving fabric has been caused by demolition, subsequent exposure to the elements and by gradual decay and neglect.
- 6.5.18 *Phasing:* Despite their fragmentary nature, it is possible to gain an understanding of the appearance and date of these buildings at various periods. Historic maps and early photographs give a good indication of the external appearance and rough extent of these buildings (Hughes 1998). The remaining evidence that survives in situ also allows us to develop some idea of their internal appearance and function.
- 6.5.19 The earliest surviving work is the churchyard wall itself, described above. The next major phase of construction may be associated with the dramatic Nash rebuilding of the house in about 1805. There has been much discussion (Morris, Hughes etc) about who designed the stable blocks, but it seems certain that they were inspired by Nash if not designed by him directly. During this phase the earlier service wings flanking the main facade of the house were demolished and it has always been assumed that they included the stables.
- 6.5.20 The final major phase of alteration was Samuel Daukes's remodelling and alteration of much of the house (and the church) in the 1860s. There is evidence that the stables were refurbished and remodelled at this time and the surviving stable bays and decorative scheme most probably belong to this period or later.
- 6.5.21 *Brickwork:* A notable feature of this wall [features (089), (171)] is the poor quality of its construction, both in materials and workmanship. The wall is made up of a

variety of bricks: most are of a broad late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup>-century type of red handmade brick; some may be reused while others are from different parts of the clamp, and there are even a number of refractory bricks built into the wall. Overall, the construction is somewhat haphazard with a mostly random bond set into a light textured white mortar. There are a number of straight joints throughout the wall, which detract from its stability and at first sight appear to be intentional features. Closer inspection reveals that these joints may in fact be due to carelessness on the part of the bricklayers and that this wall was constructed either in haste or with an eye to economy. The wall is covered in repairs [e.g. (171), (172)] and has evidently undergone periods of decay and instability. The upper twelve or so courses of the wall have suffered more exposure, and the mortar has largely fallen away; this gives the false appearance of there being two major brickwork phases.

- 6.5.22 *Timber features:* Another aspect of the construction of the wall is the number of timber beams built into the fabric of the wall (109). These serve no structural function, and are unlikely to have acted as anchors for the render (since they would be likely to cause it to fall away). The surviving timbers still hold a number of iron nails and clamps, showing that they have been used for holding fixtures and fittings at some point; this could have included panelling or dados, or a boarded covering such as tongue-and-groove. This timber lacing is not uncommon in walls dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries.
- 6.5.23 *Voids:* The wall is covered in a multitude of voids, slots, dowel holes sockets etc. Although the exact function of most of these remains obscure, and many will remain indecipherable, it has become clear during analysis that some support wainscoting mangers etc [(174), (108)].
- 6.5.24 *First Floor Structure:* Despite the entire destruction of the upper parts of the building, there are a few features, which indicate the height of the first floor. High on the wall are regularly spaced stone pads (113) which would have originally held the joists of the first floor hayloft. Photographs suggest this was lit by rectangular sash windows and oval windows, all facing into the courtyard.
- 6.5.25 *Stable Bays:* During the progress of work at Witley Court it became evident that despite the fragmentary nature of the stables it would be possible to recreate their internal appearance in some detail. The individual stable bays have been entirely removed but at least two phases of activity are still discernible. The first phase is very fragmentary and is only represented by very faded patches of whitewash or colour behind the later stucco (170). These patches of paint show the faint outlines of partitions, which do not correspond with the later stable bays. A mostly buried floor of green-glazed ceramic tiles beneath the blue brick floor may also belong to this phase. These features may be related to Nash's building and the earliest stables.
- 6.5.26 The crude construction and materials of the wall suggest that it was not intended to be seen even from its initial construction, and was always plastered or rendered over. Much of the wall is still covered by the render and fittings of the stable bays (see below). Beneath this render lie the very faint traces of an earlier render or plaster on the wall, but this scheme survives merely as white patches on the brickwork [(170), (174)]. Despite the somewhat sparse nature of these marks, however, it is possible to



make out the lines of structures butting against the wall, and it is possible that these may represent the partitions of an earlier stable scheme.

- 6.5.27 *Flooring:* The partitions (which date from the reordering under Daukes) formed the sides of loose boxes in each stable bay. The bays are all 67" (1.7 m) wide, and the floors are made up of small squared black blue brick sets (001). At the front of the stalls lies a drainage channel in yellow clinker brick (021); this is served by a number of drains topped by small, slightly curved iron drain covers pierced by multiple holes. In front of the drain lies a small strip of blue brick sets, and beyond this is the main passageway floored in yellow brick.
- 6.5.28 The front of the stalls is defined by the iron column bases (002), which are set deep into the blue brick sets surface (these again may be Daukes). These bases have all been sawn or broken off during demolition. The columns were most probably made by one of the Dudley foundries in the Black Country, and it is relatively easy to find parallels (e.g. in the crypt of the neighbouring church a number of iron columns of the same diameter support a coffin-lifting gantry).
- 6.5.29 *Stall Partitions:* No complete stall partitions survive but it is possible to some extent to recreate their appearance. The partitions were of thin beaded timber (possibly painted yellow) and small fragments survived in situ. The wooden partitions sat in the rails and the lower part was sheathed in lead sheet (003). The rear part of the rail was set into a very slight concrete step (reinforced with an iron strip) (005); the front part was attached to the rear of the iron columns.
- 6.5.30 The upper part of the partition was also held by an iron rail (011), and the very slight remains of two of these are still *in situ*. These rails were set into the wall at one end and presumably the columns at the other. There were projections from the tops of these rails although these have been almost entirely cut away. Local information from more than one source suggests that these upper rails held a half-moon shaped decorative fretwork iron screen, (according to several locals virtually identical screens were apparently to be found at the nearby Home Farm until they were removed in recent years).
- 6.5.31 *Stalls:* The rear wall of the stables is the most complex part of the interior in this part of the stables. Each bay had timber wainscoting (probably matching the partitions) on the lower part of the wall. This was held by a line of wooden plugs set into the wall at the base and by a timber rail higher up [(173), (109)]. Above this sat a level of render/plasterwork, set onto a tile base (115), smoothed over and incised with beading to give the effect of timber work (114). This elaborate slab of plasterwork has an unusual feature, which has so far defied explanation: a row of small metal brackets set into the top of the panel and slightly plastered over. Most of these brackets have been removed during demolition although a small number remain in situ. The brackets are flush with the face of the plaster and could not have supported anything; they also do not seem to have a structural or decorative function, but without further parallels, their precise function remains unknown.
- 6.5.32 Above this lies a larger area of render, which was grouted and covered with white glazed ceramic tiles laid diagonally (107). A wooden plug in the centre of this panel

may have held a manger or hay rack. As was common in stables, each stall was ventilated by a slot high up on this wall which fed in air from the walkway above. These vents were clearly inserted, probably at the same time as the addition of the render covering (106).

6.5.33 The stable bays all fronted onto a long yellow clinker brick floored corridor, with an outer wall lit by large sash windows. The space would have been rather tall and how each stall was fronted, or the height of the iron columns remains unknown.

6.5.34 There is variation in design, construction and materials throughout the stables at Great Witley and this may indicate differing phases of refurbishment or construction. In the stables to the east there is clear evidence for the troughs mangers and baskets serving each bay. Some areas of stabling appear to have no stall divisions and may have served as accommodation for mares and foals, sick or valuable animals. There is a wealth of information available on Victorian stables in the form of catalogues advertising everything from iron tethering pegs to complete stalls, and careful examination of such material may provide useful comparisons.

#### 6.5.35 *Lobbies or tack rooms*

6.5.36 As stated above the tunnel was altered in the Daukes alterations after the Dudley take-over in 1837 when two rooms were inserted along its length, and the route along the tunnel was blocked. Access along the walkway above the tunnel was maintained and the present extension of the tunnel and ramp to the drying green may have been added around this time.

6.5.37 These two rooms probably acted as tack rooms for the refurbished stables and each was provided with a fireplace set into the churchyard wall and with the flue exiting into the churchyard: the eastern room contains a relatively intact (but fragile) stone and plaster fireplace, while the western example is of plain brick construction. The western room also had a small boiler built into the earlier blocked tunnel to the west of the fireplace.

6.5.38 The interior decoration survives in the areas of which lie intact within the former truncated tunnel. These are decorated with stucco render with incised false ashlar is in keeping with earlier schemes at Witley, and is found both inside and outside buildings. The two rooms however exhibit very different decorative schemes. The western and more utilitarian room, with its stone tiles, boiler and plain scheme may have been used as a tack room or even for preparing and saddling of horses. The eastern room, with its more fragile tiled floor and decoration may have again acted as a tack room or possibly an office or stable lads room.

6.5.39 *Construction:* The north end of each room lay partly under the flat walkway over the old tunnel. A section of the barrel vault was entirely removed (and refaced with a brick arch), and the end of each room was roofed with shallow arches of inter-linking 'pot bricks' (yellow hollow shaped ceramic tiles). These were held in tension by iron bars of round section, bolted to plates at either end. This constructional technique is seen elsewhere at Witley (most notably in the coal processing area north of the conservatory).

- 6.5.40 The western room has the simpler fireplace, and parts of the tunnel are still accessible to either side of this, while iron drainpipes run down to drains from the open vents either side of the 'pot brick' arch. The room is floored in large dark grey tiles and the plan of its interior walls is still visible as lines of brickwork in the floor surfaces. The stone threshold still bears the scars of timber work and wide doors leading off the main stable corridor. The surviving interior decoration is plain render with incised ashlar as seen elsewhere in the stables. An iron pipe has been inserted into a crudely cut groove near the foot of the wall; this leads to the boiler at the west end and may have carried hot water.
- 6.5.41 The eastern room was floored with diagonally laid black and yellow tiles and was served by a reasonably ornate stone and plaster fireplace. The two small open areas to either side of the fireplace are half blocked (how the upper half was walled is unclear). The room exhibits a far more domestic appearance than its neighbour. It has a two-toned colour scheme with a darker blue/black wash on the lower half of the wall with yellow above (earlier paint schemes may survive below). There are numerous nail holes, which may have supported pictures, mirrors, shelves, or more probably riding paraphernalia. There are rows of wooden dowels set into the wall, which may have held some form of racking.

## 7 THE SOUTH STABLES

### 7.1 Introduction (Figs. 8, 12-14)

- 7.1.1 This lies on the south side of the large paved stable yard and mirrors the long northern block. It appears to have been built at the same time as both the gatehouses and the northern block. It now only survives as a large south wall and floor surfaces, the rest having been demolished after the house fell into disuse.
- 7.1.2 This large rectangular two-storied building housed stabling and the stablemen's mess room on the ground floor, with more rooms served by a number of fireplaces above. The north wall, internal dividing walls and the roof have been entirely demolished leaving almost no trace. The lack of supporting structures has contributed to the instability of the wall and in late 2001 Capps and Capps commenced work to stabilise the remaining masonry both by consolidation and the building of raking shores to support the remaining wall.
- 7.1.3 The south stables have been the focus of an earlier detailed study by the City of Hereford Archaeology Unit, their work included descriptions along with plans and elevations (CHAU 1995). These were all presented to EH in a series of reports by Hereford City Unit. OA has sought to bring the earlier graphic material into a similar format to that used on the north stables and to incorporate the earlier work into this report. During building work substantial areas of masonry were revealed which had previously been hidden by vegetation, rubble or later accretions. Building work also allowed access to a number of locations for the first time (particularly the roof, chimneys and parapet) and this allowed OA to carry out recording work which could not be carried out in previous recording episodes. This allowed OA to add these details to the earlier drawings and amend the record as appropriate. The earlier paper

elevations have been digitised by OA and are presented here in much the same format as the OA plans for the rest of the service courts.

## 7.2 History: (Reconstruction, Figure 8)

- 7.2.1 The south stables must be treated as part of the same unit and are essentially part of the same building as the northern range and the gatehouses or cross wings. Unlike the northern wing however they were totally free standing and did not sit on the terrace beneath the churchyard. The southern wall could also be seen from the gardens (although this was mostly hidden by the Orangery). Its visibility from the main garden meant that it was adorned with balustrades above a projecting cornice and dentil table. Various period illustrations show that this was visible projecting over the massive glazed roof of the Orangery (Hughes, Walker, Pardoe etc)
- 7.2.2 The earliest use of the area is unknown, and it must have lain at the base of the hill upon which Saint Michael's church now stands, and was later terraced away to form the yard.
- 7.2.3 The stable yard was built in or about 1805 possibly to a design by Nash. These stables and their adjoining coach houses were designed to replace the older flanking stable wing of the earlier 18th century house. A disused clock dated 1804 was found in the church tower but seemingly was made for the nearby stable clock and this is a strong indication that the buildings were built in or around this date. The new stables were seemingly well appointed and only underwent minor alterations until their abandonment in the 20th century.
- 7.2.4 The south stables architecturally match their companions to the north and there is no reason to doubt that all these buildings belong to one initial phase with later minor alteration.
- 7.2.5 By the 1950s almost all that was left was the wall in much the form we see it today although in far better condition. A photograph of the 1950s in the National Monuments Record, Swindon clearly shows the interior of the wall and details of a number of now vanished features including fireplaces. One of the most notable features is that a large iron-roofed shed has been built within the ruins of the stables and this was used as a workshop and for storage. The shed was seemingly demolished in the 1980s and this added to the instability of the wall.

## 7.3 Phasing and Development of Fabric

- 7.3.1 The development is limited to two phases the second being merely alteration and remodelling of the first. There were also a number of minor internal alterations including the laying of new floor surfaces and changes in decoration and fittings.
- 7.3.2 *Phase 5 (1) c 1805 Nash*
- 7.3.3 The south stables were built at the same time as the northern range and the gatehouses (c1805). This massive redesign of the service courts may have been inspired by Nash (see Hughes 1998). These earliest buildings were built of whitewashed brickwork which reflected the design of the main house at this period.



#### 7.3.4 *Phase 6 1837-1870 The Early Dudley House*

7.3.5 From the 1850s the modifications of Daukes were carried out in the main house and these were reflected in the stables (although this alteration was mostly cosmetic). A yellow render with incised false ashlar was added to the south stables (as elsewhere in the service courts). This was designed to harmonise with the new stone cladding and Italianate details on the main house.

7.3.6 Minor alterations included vents for each stable bay (as on the north block), the demolition of a partition wall and alterations to doors and fireplaces. The roof appears to have been somewhat altered and this survives as a series of scars along the parapet of the south wall. The shallow cuts into the wall indicate that a lower pitched roof was added during these alterations replacing a steeper pitched earlier one.

#### 7.3.7 *Phase 7 1870-1937 The Later Dudley House*

7.3.8 The stables underwent few later alterations and appear to have survived intact. There is some suggestion (from local oral history) that the stables were partially used for storage in the later phases of occupation of the house when large numbers of horses were no longer maintained.

#### 7.3.9 *Phase 8 1937-1972 Destruction*

7.3.10 The south stables were untouched by the fire of 1937 but, as with other parts of the service courts, they suffered greatly during phases of demolition. The north wall of the block was removed entirely as was the floors and roof structures. The south wall (together with its balustrade) remained almost intact however and a large corrugated iron roofed shed was built against it. The east gatehouse fared somewhat better and retained its roof and doors and windows. During the Second World War it was used as a bottling plant and a number of wartime jars and lids are still stored in its roof space.

#### 7.3.11 *Phase 9 Guardianship*

7.3.12 After the monument came into guardianship the stables were used as a builders' yard by contractors working on the main house. Until the current restorations the condition of the buildings has inhibited all but occasional organised visits by the general public.

### 7.4 **General Description of Fabric (Figs 12-14)**

7.4.1 The south stables are the long southern range of a rectangular courtyard set beneath the imposing church of Saint Michael on its terraced hill. The south stables sit on the southern part of a terrace dug from this hill. To the south of the stables another terrace has been excavated and this lies between the stables and the 19<sup>th</sup>-century conservatory.

7.4.2 The main surviving element is the massive south wall surmounted by an elegant balustrade. This is attached to the eastern and western gatehouses at its ends but for most of its length it is free standing. The northern wall has almost entirely vanished and survives only as a scar amongst the floor surfaces and as a fragment at the west

end. The internal walls and divisions have been mostly removed although at the west end a single internal wall survives to almost its full height.

- 7.4.3 The exterior of the south wall is somewhat plain and consists of a large featureless wall topped by moulding and a balustrade. Several narrow rectangular windows pierce the wall and a row of vents have been inserted into the ground floor. The internal wall contains many more features including the scars of stable bays and joist holes, the remains of render and plaster and a number of fireplaces, flues and chimneys. On the upper part of the internal wall there is the evidence of the roof structure consisting of pockets, flashing and beam slots.
- 7.4.4 The entire range is just over 36m long and for two thirds of that length is 6m wide. The eastern end (the southern part of the gatehouse) contained a gunroom with a small fireplace and above this was a small domestic room. To the west of this lay a small narrow corridor which gave access from the stable yard through to the rear of the conservatory. The main stabling with its ten individual bays (similar in arrangement and fittings to those in the north block) had another hayloft (or perhaps domestic accommodation) above. At the western end lay the small stablemen's mess room complete with its cooking range, and above this there was some accommodation on the floor above, with at least one heated room.

## 7.5 Detailed Description of Fabric (Figs 12-14)

### 7.5.1 *Chimneys and Balustrade*

- 7.5.2 As elsewhere at Witley Court the stables were well served with fireplaces and a number of flues run through the walls. The flues on the south wall are all made of brick apart from the topmost courses, which survive as stone settings within the parapet course. The largest of these is made up of four circular openings serving flues running up from a wide breast. These openings once supported (now missing) tall decorative pots, which are clearly visible on period pictures and photographs. A smaller single flue fireplace of similar construction lies further east in the return at the centre of the wall (524).

- 7.5.3 On the far eastern part of the wall above the former gunroom sit two well preserved chimneys. The taller of these has an elaborate stone surround and a tall ceramic pot and is of the type seen all over the house. The shorter chimney has a concrete base supporting a simple galvanised iron pot (very similar to the ventilators seen in Zone 1). Both pots have been used for target practice and are peppered with bullet holes. The taller pot may be associated with the Daukes expansion and alteration and is identical to others in the house and yards. The smaller iron pot may belong to a later phase perhaps the final phase of the use of the stables.

### 7.5.4 *Floor Surfaces*

- 7.5.5 Despite the almost total destruction of the buildings the floor surfaces survive in remarkably good condition. At the east end there is a yellow clinker brick floor laid in a herringbone pattern. This floor is crossed by several iron drains topped with blue brick sets with fake cobbled surfaces.

- 7.5.6 The yellow clinker and blue brick set “cobbled” floor are described by CHAU as being “mid 18th-early 20th century” in date. This seems to be an unnecessarily broad time range and upon inspection the bricks appear to be mid-late 19th century in date and probably belong to the refurbishment of the stables under Daukes in the 1850s. Some bricks are marked ADAMANTINE CLINKER REG and may be the product of the Adamantine brick works of Little Bytham, Lincolnshire which exported widely from the 1850s onwards. The floors in the stables are drained by a series of iron covered drains set flush with the floor. These drains are topped with blue brick sets which produces a distinctive contrasting yellow and black floor surface.
- 7.5.7 The remains of the stall divisions on the floor surfaces are not as well defined as they are in the north stables. Although on the wall itself the slots for the divider rails and at least one of the dividers survives in situ. The layout of the stalls themselves together with the stall gates was reconstructed by CHAU and can be clearly seen on the plan.
- 7.5.8 Despite suffering from decades of exposure and sometimes inappropriate use the floor surfaces are in surprisingly good condition although in places collapsed drains have caused subsidence and in others areas the floor has been damaged or removed.
- 7.5.9 *The South Stables Interior (Figure 12, 14)*
- 7.5.10 As with the north stables some of the interior of the south stables survives on the remaining elevation although almost all the other walls have been obliterated by demolition. The south wall is divided into two main sections: at the east end is the long elevation of the stable interior (top drawing figure 12) and a short north-south length (bottom left figure 12) separates this section from the shorter stretch to the west (bottom right figure 12). This western section housed the stablemen’s mess on the ground floor with accommodation above. A tiny fragment remains of the north wall of the block (central drawing figure 14) along with a single internal wall (side drawings figure 14).
- 7.5.11 The eastern stable block appears to be very similar in decoration and form to its northern counterpart with a number of stalls accessed by a corridor to the north. The stalls each had a (presumably timber) lower part (510) with a white glazed tile layer above (501) and above this is a rendered wall with false inscribed ashlar (502). Vents (500) and troughs (509) are clearly inserted later and are the result of later modification. The upper floor is a large rendered plain unheated room lit by two (inserted) windows.
- 7.5.12 To the west the domestic rooms are altogether more complex with a number of fittings witnessed by the scars of nail holes and shelves and a number of internal walls as well as fireplaces on both upper and lower floors (522, 520). These flues all feed towards the triple potted chimney which reared from the roof at this point. A small room at the west end must have held a small boiler and a small iron hinged door (525) which may have been a soot box for a missing flue. The lack of a dividing wall parallel the southward projection has been remarked upon but there is no evidence such a wall ever existed.

7.5.13 As elsewhere in the Nash ranges the walls appear to be poorly built and there are numbers of horizontal timbers (or the scars left by these) running along the length of the wall. In places these have been used to attach fittings but they mostly serve no apparent function.

7.5.14 *The East Gatehouse*

7.5.15 The centre section of the east gatehouse still retains its roof timbers (now covered with corrugated iron) part of its floor, its windows and door and an almost intact lower room complete with plaster and paintwork. The southern end of the block is in poorer condition with the roof having disappeared entirely although part of the timber floor in situ. This end of the gatehouse block was divided from the stables by a narrow tunnel (Figure 13). The lower room of the gatehouse was a gunroom entered from a doorway to the east and lit by a large rectangular window (both now blocked).

## 8 ZONE 3: THE LAUNDRY BLOCK AND NURSERY COURT

### 8.1 Introduction (Figs 15-18)

8.1.1 The Kitchen or Nursery Court lies to the immediate east of the stables. The courtyard was accessed through the east gatehouse. This led to an irregular shaped yard paved with the same diamond pattern of slabs seen in the other yards. A number of buildings were grouped around the yard. On the south side lies an arcade of round-headed arches built in rendered over brick, this fronts a three-storey building. On the east side of the yard lies the curving sweep of the quadrant range. This massive range contained the Servants Hall and House Stewards Room on the lower floor with the nursery block above. The west side is defined by the east gatehouse of the stables and a boiler house. The northern edge of the yard is defined by a stone and brick arcade (mirroring that on the south) while behind this the laundry block and washroom with the housekeepers room above.

8.1.2 This northern range of buildings were built up against the churchyard wall and are now largely destroyed apart from their internal rear walls and part of the arcade. As well as the remains of the Laundry block and Housekeeper's rooms, the northern end of the tunnel in Zone 2 and the fragmentary remains of a boiler house lie in the western part of the zone.

8.1.3 This boiler house area was also the subject of two limited archaeological excavations carried out in the summer and autumn of 2001. It was noted prior to the commencement of works that a number of subterranean features lay at the base of the churchyard wall but were little understood due to a covering of rubble, soil and vegetation. As part of the project these areas were cleared and revealed themselves to be a complex of cellars sub-basements and ducts.

### 8.2 History: (Reconstruction Figure 15)

8.2.1 As elsewhere in the Service Courts at Witley the available historic sources appear to be somewhat limited although historical records are held in a number of places and



have not yet been fully analysed. Griffith's roof plan of 1837 shows the roofs of these buildings clearly but there has been some debate over whether these show the actual roofs or an intended scheme which was never carried out (see Hughes 1998).

8.2.2 This part of the building is shown in remarkably few of the surviving pictorial sources. At least one photo survives of the interior of the courtyard before demolition although it only shows a group of servants with a row of windows in the background. An aerial photograph taken in the immediate aftermath of the 1937 fire shows the tops of the buildings projecting above the curved facade of the nursery wing but unfortunately this gives little real detail.

8.2.3 Early views of the house and photographs occasionally show the upper parts of these buildings looking out from above the garden facade but again only an indication is given of the appearance of the buildings.

**Table 3 Summary of Development in Zone 3**

Phase	Events	Evidence
<i>Phase 1</i> 1400-1500 Medieval	Early terracing may have taken place in this area but its extent is unknown. An early plastered wall was partly revealed behind the rear wall of the laundry which must pre date the 1805 modifications.	Limited evidence revealed during the consolidation of the churchyard wall.
<i>Phase 2</i> 1600-1665 Russells	Possible phases of terracing and building in or near this area. (see above)	As above
<i>Phase 3</i> 1655-1700 Early Foleys	Possible further terracing into the side of the sandstone knoll. The west wing of the house is set on this terrace.	Massive sandstone foundations of enlarged Foley mansion lie to the immediate east
<i>Phase 4</i> 1700-1750 Late Foleys	The earliest surviving kitchen added to the immediate east of this zone, there are almost certainly buildings on the site (of unknown form and function).	Lack of evidence of roofing and location slightly apart from main house.
<i>Phase 5</i> 1750-1837 5(1) Nash 1805	Addition of the extended block running from the outer courtyard (Zone 1), through the north stables (Zone 2) and the laundry (Zone 4). In the laundry an upper floor is added to the existing rooms. This raised story carries on over the kitchen flooring what may have been the earlier lantern roof and gives access to the nursery wing and the stairs of the main house. The sub basements and cellars may also have been added at this time.	A phase of massive rebuilding and improvement with the addition of long continuous wings throughout the service area. The insertion of the floor is attested in both the fabric and pictorial sources.
<i>Phase 6</i> 1837-1870 Daukes	Later additions and improvements to fittings	
<i>Phase 7</i> 1870-1937 Fire and Destruction	As above.	
<i>Phase 8</i> 1937-1972 Guardianship	Abandonment and demolition of the taller buildings during the 1940s.	Many locals remember the demolition and numerous oral histories have been

**Table 3 Summary of Development in Zone 3**

Phase	Events	Evidence
		passed on. Buildings were destroyed to salvage materials and architectural elements.
Phase 9 1972 Present	Area closed to visitors, restoration commenced 2001	EH papers

### 8.3 Phasing and Development of Fabric

#### 8.3.1 Phase 4 1700-1750 The Middle Foleys

8.3.2 As elsewhere along the length of the churchyard wall the earliest activity must have been the terracing away of the sandstone knoll on which the church is situated. Dating this activity is impossible but it is likely to have occurred in several phases with the initial terracing being followed by the excavation of sub-basements and cellars into the underlying sandstone bedrock. This terracing will have been followed by the construction of the churchyard wall (or its predecessor) to revett back the make up of the graveyard. What seems certain however is that the initial terracing will have been completed (at least at the east end) by the creation of the kitchen which took place sometime before the 1740s.

8.3.3 The churchyard wall in this area has been almost entirely obscured by later buildings but it is visible through the later fireplaces and through gaps made during restoration to replace brickwork. Although this early wall could only be glimpsed in these small windows it did however have a number of intriguing features including a course of flat limestone blocks lying in a band mid way up the wall and a projecting corbel with a plastered surface inside. Perhaps the most interesting feature was the row of 18 vertical beam slots preserved as a negative feature within the brickwork at the very top of the earlier wall.

8.3.4 All these features indicate that there was some sort of earlier building on this site and that it was later removed and covered over leaving only its north wall behind. The vaulting with its internal plasterwork may indicate a tunnel or vaulting although there was too little revealed during consolidation from which to draw any conclusion. The presence of the joist marks may indicate that there was once a building here with a roof just above the level of the churchyard wall. This building may be the servants' hall which was mentioned in the 1730s as being in or near this vicinity (Hughes 1998). Alternatively the slots may be related to the flooring (now almost entirely missing, see Fig 15) from the upper floor of the later block. With only a small area of this rear wall being made visible during the restoration process no firm conclusions can be drawn either to its appearance or significance.

8.3.5 Another early feature is the cross wall, which sits at the far west and divides this zone from the stables to the west. This is a large wide brick built wall which formed the western part of the boiler building. Its earlier origin becomes evident in the eastern part of the Laundry Tunnel, for this tunnel truncates and is crudely hacked

through the earlier wall. In the tunnel it is also apparent that the tunnel runs (at least partly) beneath the graveyard although later tunnel brickwork has obscured its relationship. This wall must be earlier than the Nash redesign of the stables and is seemingly all that remains of an earlier phase.

#### 8.3.6 *Phase 5 (1) c 1805 Nash*

8.3.7 The next phase of activity in this area must be the construction of the tunnel itself (see also Zone 2). The tunnel appears to have been added after the construction of the stable blocks (c 1805) and went out of use after Daukes' alterations of the 1860s. This is the terminal end of the tunnel and is presumably where the tunnel was accessed by the laundry staff on their way to the drying green. After the tunnel was blocked this end was disused and remained blocked until recently. A stair was inserted to the east of the now blocked tunnel giving access to the walkway on top, which replaced the earlier route. This stair has left only the faintest scars on the surviving fabric, but during restoration, builders recovered a small piece of what may be a newel post (retained by OA). The stair gave access from the basement to the laundry and the tunnel and rooms above. That there were at least two phases of activity in the tunnel is evident from the different radius of the brick vaulting on the east end. A wide shallow arch has been reduced in size and relined with a smaller arch and narrower tunnel.

#### 8.3.8 *Phase 5 1750-1837 The Later Foleys*

8.3.9 The addition of the laundry block is the next phase of activity. This may not have been added at the same period and its remains are too scant to draw up a reliable relative chronology. The laundry partly acted as a boiler house and a number of very large boilers or copper bases are visible in its ruins. It consisted of a large building sited to the north of the east gatehouse and projecting slightly from the north arcade. This building used the older dividing wall as its eastern wall and the tunnel as its northern wall and had at least one sub basement in its north-east corner.

8.3.10 The main part of the laundry block itself may also have been built at this time and was part of the long Nash-inspired range which led from the kitchen all the way to the coach houses at the western extremity of the service courts. Its designation as the laundry block may be something of a misnomer however since although the laundry and washroom were on its ground floor, it also held the Housekeeper's rooms and Steward's hall on its first floor. The term laundry block has been used to describe the entirety of this building in this report.

8.3.11 This block had an elaborate facade facing into the yard with an arcade of rounded classical arches. Behind this arcade lay a cloister-like walkway with windows looking into the yard. The ground and first floors remain only as scars on the northern wall along with the fragmentary east wall. These are the only substantial remains of this building above ground. The lower floor was clearly a utilitarian space and consisted of wash rooms, the laundry and the kitchen maids room. The floor above was served by large fireplaces and was clearly domestic in nature, and this is shown on historic maps as the housekeepers and stewards rooms.

#### 8.3.12 *Phase 8 1937-1972 Destruction-Present*

- 8.3.13 With minor alterations and modifications the buildings remained largely unchanged until after the fire of 1937. This area was clearly untouched by the fire and survived until after the Second World War. In the war the buildings were at least partially used as part of the bottling and canning plant on the site and may have already been semi ruinous. By the 1950s demolition was taking place mostly to extract iron elements (including iron beams and fittings), the south parts of these buildings were destroyed at this time and the various sub-basements and cellars were filled with rubble. After the monument passed into state guardianship the ruinous buildings were used for dumping waste stonework and mortar, the north wall was propped with scaffolding and remained so until the current restorations.
- 8.3.14 By 2001 the end of the tunnel was a complex structure in a ruinous and dangerous condition. Before restoration work OA carried out limited excavation beneath the collapsed arch (see accompanying volume). This located a sub basement and boiler base beneath the arch and site of the stairs. How to best restore and present this area was problematic and English Heritage decided that a modern steel column supporting the vault would provide the desired stability and not create a confusion with the historic fabric.

#### 8.4 General Description of Fabric (Figs 16-18)

- 8.4.1 This area of the service courts survives as a large expanse of wall which unlike the stables is not supported by a tunnel or any other form of supporting wall. The remains of various phases of activity are clearly visible including three fireplaces (one at ground level two on the now upper floor) as well as numerous joist holes, scars and areas of render.
- 8.4.2 This zone includes the site of the former laundry block and to its immediate east the site of the housekeeper's apartment. The zone is dominated by the surviving wall of this building, which is butted against the churchyard wall. In this wall the remains of two storeys complete with fireplaces are clearly visible. To the west of this section lies the collapsed east end of the tunnel and the scant remains of more buildings. As elsewhere post-fire demolition and decay have caused the destruction of most of the buildings and only those features on the northern churchyard retaining wall remain visible and accessible. To the south of the wall (outside the study area) lies an impressive stretch of brick and stone arcading which made up part of the facade of one of the buildings and is an important structural element.
- 8.4.3 The upper floor provided access along a corridor, which ran high over the roof of the kitchen and provided access to both the staircase of the main house and the adjoining nursery wing. Virtually nothing remains of this floor but it is visible on a number of drawings and photographs (1920s sale catalogue, 1937 newspaper photograph (see Hughes 1998).

#### 8.5 Detailed Description of Fabric (Figs 16-18)

- 8.5.1 This area comprises the following elements:

- Churchyard Wall



- Later Buildings of Laundry, etc
- The East Wall
- Basements and Cellars
- The Arcade

### 8.5.2 *Churchyard wall*

- 8.5.3 As elsewhere along the length of the wall the churchyard has been deeply terraced into the hillside and the scale of this activity has been plotted to some extent by core samples taken by English Heritage. The earlier churchyard wall is overlain by the later building, which was somewhat crudely placed against it. Before restoration there was a large gap between these two 'skins' of walling and this had allowed tree roots to grow inside thus increasing the damage.
- 8.5.4 During building work, it became apparent that the earlier churchyard wall, which lay behind the later buildings, was revealed in some areas. Access to this earlier phase was somewhat limited as only small areas of brickwork were removed for repair and consolidation. 'Windows' allowing glimpses to the earlier wall were located in several areas including: behind the fireplaces; in a number of small holes created by the removal of brickwork; in the damaged area around exposed flues and along the top of the wall where it was ruinous and the later wall was falling away from it.
- 8.5.5 *Construction:* This earlier wall was made up of small hand made bricks of a late 17th-18th type laid in an English bond in a hard white lime mortar. There were no obvious signs of phasing but these may have been hidden by later accretions.
- 8.5.6 *Features:* The opportunities to view the early wall in this location were somewhat limited but despite this, a number of interesting features were located. This included an unexpected patch of internal whitewashed plaster (above the fireplace of the Kitchen Maids room) immediately above which the brickwork was corbelled out slightly. It was also noted that the bricks were of a smaller, earlier type than the overlying laundry wall (similar sized bricks were noted in all the "windows" mentioned above).
- 8.5.7 A similar area of corbelling was noted during later restoration work on the wall behind the vertical flues. This work allowed very limited views of the inner wall surviving behind the rear wall of the laundry. It showed that the flues utilised the earlier churchyard wall as the rear wall of the flue. A slight corbelling projecting outwards from the churchyard wall was noted, as was a course of thin limestone blocks set into this wall.
- 8.5.8 At the top of the churchyard wall, building work revealed a row of 18 narrow vertical slots built into rather crude brickwork. These slots were mostly of indeterminate length and appeared at 12" intervals and were 5" in width and less than ½" in depth, flattened areas of mortar indicated that these slots once held timbers. The slots run



from the eastern edge of the wall as far as a slight thickening of the wall. They were revealed during the removal of trees whose roots had penetrated between the laundry wall and the churchyard wall forcing each apart. After consolidation they were again entirely hidden by new areas of brickwork.

8.5.9 The exact purpose and origin of the slots remains unclear but that they were evidently internal (due to their unweathered and their somewhat flimsy construction) may indicate that they served no structural function and are rather the result of the wall being built against a pre-existing structure. The spacing of the slots indicate that they may have held joists for the roof structure of an entirely vanished building to the south, and this may be verified by the presence of plaster and corbelling on the wall below. If this was a roof structure it was substantial and may conceivably have lain over a large open building. Alternatively however they may be the only remaining vestige of the now entirely vanished upper storey which lay above the block and gave access to the main house. It is possible that this is the roof glimpsed on Woods picture of 1843 (Pardoe 1986) although it could equally belong to an earlier structure.

8.5.10 The slots, the suggestion of corbelling, the whitewash, and the course of limestone are all suggestive of a building in this area predating those visible today. The layers of later work and the terracing away of the ground below has left us with very little idea of what this building (or buildings) would have looked like.

#### 8.5.11 *The Later Buildings*

8.5.12 The later buildings remain as a single interior wall built up against the earlier churchyard wall. This section survives up to nearly its original full height and it evidently once formed the back of a range of buildings including the laundry block and the housekeeper's room. There are two floors clearly visible, the ground floor has a fireplace at the east end and to the west lie numerous patches of render, iron brackets and voids from fittings. The floor above has two large fireplaces and is less utilitarian in appearance with large rather featureless expanses of wall.

8.5.13 *Construction:* The wall is mostly of one build and is made up of somewhat standard pink uniform bricks of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century type. These are laid in a rough bond. The wall is built against the earlier churchyard wall although blocks have been keyed into the earlier part on the west side to give some stability to the wall. A number of flues run through the wall and these also utilise the earlier back wall.

8.5.14 *The Stairs and Tunnel:* These lie at the western end of the wall at the junction with the adjacent tunnel running through zone 2 (this has been partially excavated and is discussed further. It is known that a staircase lay in this area and what may be a small wooden fragment of this was located during restoration work. There are no clear indications of exactly where the stair lay, although it probably sat on the small relieving arch at the top of the sub basement. The upper parts would have been supported by the various joist holes and pockets which are still visible.

8.5.15 *The Laundry and Wash Room:* The laundry was situated to the south of the study area and is almost totally destroyed. All that does survive are two massive boiler bases and scars on the ruinous north gable of the gatehouse. The wall dividing the

laundry from the stables has been almost entirely rebuilt on at least two occasions (after demolition and during the current repairs. The excavated boiler bases, flues and drains beneath the floor (partially excavated by OA, see accompanying volume) must have been associated with the laundry but these mostly remain buried. The laundry is shown on the 1888 plan as lying at the end of the tunnel to the west of the Kitchen or Nursery Court.

- 8.5.16 The Wash Room is shown on the 1888 plan as being the room lying at the west end of the ground floor of the tall building on the north side of the courtyard. This floor is mainly represented by the scars and remains left on its northern wall. There were evidently three rooms along the length of this wall, but the north-south walls only now survive as lines of brickwork on both the wall and in the ground. The rooms have no fireplaces and the wall is covered with render or areas of tiling and the scars of numerous fixtures and fittings.
- 8.5.17 The most intriguing of these fittings are two iron brackets. One of these has been sawn off but the other is complete although twisted (this will have occurred during demolition). The absence of render in a large rectangular patch above these brackets may indicate that they once held a large feature of some kind, probably a large water tank.
- 8.5.18 Excavation revealed a complex system of sub-basements, cellars and ducts throughout the ground floor, a passageway possibly running along the base of the wall, and a semi-underground boiler base (see additional volume).
- 8.5.19 *The Kitchen Maid's Room:* This small room lies at the east end of this Zone and was accessed from the arcade walkway. It had a door directly to the kitchen. At the eastern end was a simple small fireplace with an angled brick flue. This flue feeds up into the main kitchen chimney. There is little else surviving in this room.
- 8.5.20 *The First Floor Rooms:* The first floor rooms are domestic in nature and they consist of two large rooms each with a surviving fireplace. Both of these have the remains of limestone surrounds. These surrounds were held in place by iron clamps, which supported stone consoles supporting (now missing) overmantels.
- 8.5.21 Lines of plug holes along the foot of the wall in both rooms indicates there was a wooden skirting running around the rooms (this is seen elsewhere at Witley Court). A few patches of dark red paint survive on the plasterwork in the western room and these are the only survivals of the colour scheme of this floor. In the western room, an iron plate on the wall shows the location of some form of boiler or water tank sitting adjacent to the range.
- 8.5.22 The internal walls (running from north-south) survive only as scars on the north wall, these show that there were two large rooms with a small gap (which seemed to have contained a stair connecting to the upper floor and the ground.) running between. In this corridor, at least two vertical features can be seen running up the wall. Early speculation indicated that these might be part of the main house's elaborate heating system. It was established that this feature was a flue feeding up from a below ground source (possibly in a buried cellar). This was only one of a number of vertical features not all of which were flues but rather they were vertical lines of bricks

acting as anchors between the early rear wall and the later wall.

#### 8.5.23 *The East Wall (Fig. 17)*

8.5.24 The east wall of the laundry block is formed from the rear wall of the main kitchen chimney in Zone 4. On its inner face it is rather featureless, although it does have timber lacing and rows of joist and plug holes. Two large beam slots at the top of the wall are in an area that was entirely rebuilt in an earlier restoration (1970s or 1980s?). They may represent a now vanished floor line or part of the roof construction.

#### 8.5.25 *Basements and Cellars*

8.5.26 Limited excavation was carried out by OA in this area. This excavation was designed to establish the depth and nature of deposits to help inform restoration work and rather unexpectedly a number of subterranean structures were revealed during these excavations (these are more fully discussed in the accompanying appendix). The excavations focussed on two areas.

8.5.27 *The visible structures in the centre of the laundry block:* These consisted of a void roofed with stone slabs. On excavation this appeared to be a low cellar accessed by stairs (although it was only partially cleared). This may have led to a passage running parallel with the base of the wall.

8.5.28 The east end of the tunnel at its junction with the laundry. This exposed a basement with a boiler base and what appears to be a passageway running along the rear wall. Later excavation exposed the remains of further structures including underground flues and soakaways.

8.5.29 These excavations show that there were a number of subterranean features beneath the buildings in this zone. As well as the cellars and basements there were also heating ducts, drains and at least one coal chute. The full extent of these features and their implications for the story of the building are not apparent at the time of writing.

#### 8.5.30 *The North Arcade (Fig. 18)*

8.5.31 The arcade is one of the most impressive surviving elements of the Kitchen Court and is mirrored by the fragmentary arcade on the south side. The surviving remains are made up of five arches running from east to west extending from the curving sweep of the nursery block out towards the (largely vanished) laundry. The last three arches on the west end of the arcade are missing although the bases of these survive on the ground.

8.5.32 The structure is largely unsupported and has long been a cause of concern. In the summer of 2002 it was noted that the arch was leaning dramatically and this lean had worsened over the previous winter. It was decided that the arcade should be immediately repaired and consolidated as part of the ongoing restorations. OA was commissioned to carry out recording work on the arcade prior to restoration, this recording was to illustrate the unrestored condition of the arcade highlighting areas of damage and deformation.

- 8.5.33 *Description:* The arcade is made up of five graceful semicircular arches with the springer of a further missing arch remaining in situ. This and two other missing arches are now represented only as pillar bases. It is made up of a yellow/grey fine-grained limestone. The construction is complex with interlinking stone blocks which face a stone and brick core. This construction is most clearly visible on the top of the arcade where the brick core is exposed. Along this upper stonework the blocks are held in place by butterfly shaped slate joggles, some of which are broken whilst other survive only as scars.
- 8.5.34 The arcade would have been viewed from the yard to its south. Each pillar (or pier) is square in section with mouldings along the vertical sides and capped by a simple moulded capital. The arches themselves are enhanced by slightly projecting hoods. On the rear (northern) side the arches are surrounded by slightly recessed mouldings and the pillars are flat. Only a small fragment survives of the topmost layer of the arcade and this comprises a projecting cornice with a course of dentils below and moulding above. This cornice only survives in a fragmentary form at the east end. As elsewhere at Witley this may have been topped by a balustrade giving the appearance of a balcony from the ground.
- 8.5.35 Areas of paint are still visible on the stonework although these are much decayed they appear to be a dark red or brown. A single triangular iron bracket survives in situ high up on the wall and another survives in store. Fixings for other brackets may be seen all along the wall and would have once supported a roof structure.
- 8.5.36 *Floor surfaces:* The uneven ground surface around the base of the arcade may have contributed towards its structural problems. The slumping of the paved courtyard is obvious and this may have been exacerbated by underground pipes, drains and possibly basements. The floor surface behind the arch is a concrete pathway which seems to have been added recently (possibly during the 1970s and 1980s rebuilding works on the main house).
- 8.5.37 *Condition:* The arcade was leaning alarmingly in a number of directions; the east end was supported by the stump of the outer wall of the Nursery block, the western end is unsupported and was leaning both to the west and falling to the north. In the centre the entire arcade was falling to the south this created a twist along the length of the arcade which was causing severe damage to the structure and would have eventually caused collapse.
- 8.5.38 The twisting was causing the blocks making up the arcade to come apart and crack. The keystones of almost all the arches were slipping downwards and this had caused the voussoirs to compress and in places crack. Each of the square blocks between the arches was cracked on its upper eastern corner and this was caused by the arcade slipping westwards thus compressing the blocks under the weight of the stonework above. The pillars supporting the arcade were also being forced apart resulting in large gaps between blocks and areas of cracking and spalling.
- 8.5.39 Much of the visible damage (as opposed to decay) is related to the partial demolition of the arcade and its attempted demolition. Several of the pillars have clearly had cable tied around them and an attempt has been made to pull the structure over in



other places attempts have been made to force apart the blocks of the piers with a crow bar or similar instrument.

## **9 ZONE 4: THE KITCHEN**

### **9.1 Introduction (Figs 19-20)**

- 9.1.1 The kitchen is an almost square space sited against the south-eastern corner of the churchyard and looked over by the churchyard above. The main surviving structural element in this zone is the massive remains of a single large chimneystack, which projects south from the churchyard. The remains of the kitchen to its east include a sandstone and brick east wall and a (recently rebuilt) north wall. On first inspection it appears that most of the building has been almost obliterated although there are enough clues in both the surviving fabric and historical accounts to gain a reasonably clear picture of its appearance prior to 1937.
- 9.1.2 The kitchen retains a number of early features including a sandstone east wall and an early round chimney shaft. These may have belonged to a detached kitchen to the 17th or 18th-century house. This was substantially altered by the addition of an upper floor (connecting the housekeeper's apartments with the main house and nursery) in or around 1805. Later changes are minimal and include the addition of a limestone fire surround, cooking ranges (one with side boiler) and drains sinks etc. These changes are still visible in the surviving fabric.
- 9.1.3 The structures of the chimney and the west wall were examined by OA in detail. The north and east walls were outside the original study area but were examined and are referred to in the text. The churchyard wall the chimney and the north wall have all been extensively restored in recent times (before 2001) without prior recording. This has affected the integrity of the historic fabric and made analysis difficult in some areas.

### **9.2 History: (Reconstruction Figure 19)**

- 9.2.1 The kitchen is poorly preserved and if it was not for its large fireplaces and location it would be difficult to identify. As elsewhere at Witley we see a small early building encased and incorporated (somewhat uncomfortably) into larger and grander later designs. Interestingly, compared with other contemporary great houses the kitchen at Witley is remarkably small. The later kitchen must have received all its natural light through the north window which looked into the scullery (which presumably had a glazed roof). With the insertion of the wooden structure (either a chef's office or store) in the south east corner and sinks against the walls the space must have been further reduced and would have needed permanent artificial lighting.
- 9.2.2 In view of these restrictions it seems that this kitchen was only part of the much larger network of small semi-subterranean rooms and chambers with most of the food preparation areas underneath the great house itself. There was also a still room (beneath the main house) with cooking range, which is nearly as large as the main kitchen. Much of the cooking would have taken place in these rooms and the room



now known as the kitchen would have perhaps only been a small part of a much larger process of food production.

- 9.2.3 The function of the room above the later kitchen and the exact appearance of the roof may never be known as they have disappeared entirely and are only glimpsed in pictorial sources.
- 9.2.4 There are a number of historical documentary sources pertaining to the kitchens at Witley Court. The kitchens however were not a single homogenous unit and food storage, preparation, and cooking took place in a number of locations. This makes it difficult to reconcile some of the historic material with individual rooms and buildings.
- 9.2.5 The kitchen is shown on a map of 1793 and seems to be of much the same plan as that which can be traced today. There are a number of references relating to the purchase of items for the kitchens including iron oven doors and repairs to a charcoal range. Interestingly a 1801 reference details the repairs to a slate roof in this area implying that the building was already somewhat old (Hughes 1998).
- 9.2.6 There are no known historic photographs clearly showing this part of the house and it is hidden in all the historic pictorial sources by the surrounding buildings and the churchyard wall. The upper part of the later (and taller) roof may be glimpsed on later photos. The drainage plan of 1888 (Dudley Archives Service) is one of the most useful documents in that it gives the names of various rooms and buildings and also shows now vanished features such as two sinks on the kitchen's south wall.

**Table 4 Summary of Development of Zone 4**

Phase	Events	Evidence
Phase 1 1400-1500 Medieval	Early terracing may have taken place in this area for the late medieval manor. The surviving medieval remains (encased in the cellars of the later house) are at the same ground level as the kitchen floor.	Ground levels in the basement of the main house.
Phase 2 1600-1665 Russells	Possible phases of terracing and building in or near this area.	As above
Phase 3 1655-1700 Early Foleys	Possible further terracing into the side of the sandstone knoll. The west wing of the house is set on this terrace.	Massive sandstone foundations of enlarged Foley mansion lie to the immediate east
Phase 4 1700-1750 Late Foleys	The earliest surviving kitchen probably having a lantern roof and served by the large fireplace. Its walls were both brick and sandstone.	Lack of evidence of roofing and location slightly apart from main house.
Phase 5 1750-1837 V(1) Nash 1805	Addition of the extended block running from the outer courtyard (Zone 1), through the north stables (Zone 2), the laundry (Zone 4). In the laundry an upper floor is added to the existing rooms. This raised story carries on over the kitchen flooring what may have been the earlier lantern roof and gives access to the	A phase of massive rebuilding and improvement with the addition of long continuous wings throughout the service area. The insertion of the floor is attested in both the fabric and pictorial sources.

**Table 4 Summary of Development of Zone 4**

Phase	Events	Evidence
	nursery wing and the stairs of the main house.	
Phase 6 1837-1870 Daukes	Later additions and improvements to fittings	Gas pipes, a water boiler, later 19th century sink bases all partially survive in situ and represent a continuing development of facilities in the kitchen.
Phase 7 1870-1937 Fire and Destruction	As above.	
Phase 8 1937-1972 Guardianship	Abandonment and demolition of the taller buildings during the 1940s. The kitchen was reduced to the vestige which remains today.	Many locals remember the demolition and numerous oral stories have been passed on. Buildings were destroyed to salvage materials and architectural elements.
Phase 9 1972 Present	Area closed to visitors, restoration commenced 2001	EH papers

### 9.3 Phasing and Development of Fabric

#### 9.3.1 *Medieval-Early Foley 1400-1700*

9.3.2 The earliest work in this area must be the terracing which digs sharply into the soft sandstone bedrock; on the main house wall to the east lies the massive sandstone blocks of the Jacobean or late 17th-century house. These blocks sit on the top of the undulating sandstone bedrock and are the earliest identifiable features on this side of the service courts.

#### 9.3.3 *Middle Foley 1700-1750*

9.3.4 The east churchyard wall looms over the kitchen although what is now visible is a skin built over an earlier and somewhat narrower wall. The northernmost chimney is an earlier feature. It is a large tapering structure rectangular at the base and round at the top. At the base lies a sloping flue made up of 19th-century bricks, which held the back of an iron cooking range. The bricks in the chimney itself are of a flatter narrower type and may be 18th or even 17th-century in origin. An iron bar with a simple slot is positioned in the chimney above the fireplace and may have held a pot hook or cauldron ratchet. The early date of the bricks and the possibility of open hearth cooking suggest an early date for food preparation on this site perhaps even as early as the 17th century. Part of the east wall is made up of sandstone blocks and this again indicates an earlier building on this site which was incorporated into the later kitchen.

9.3.5 The physical appearance of this early building is unclear. It would have sat in the lee of both the churchyard and the house and the large chimney suggests it may even have been a kitchen at this early date. It was the same size (in plan) as the later kitchen and had brick walls possibly with sandstone bases and corners. It may have been detached to prevent the spread of fire to the house and may have had an adjoining building to the west. How it was roofed is unclear from the surviving evidence.

#### 9.3.6 *Later Foley 1700-1750*

- 9.3.7 The conversion of the open hearth to a range, the addition of the side boiler and possibly the construction of the limestone surround may belong to the next phase of activity. This new work could be associated with the Nash alterations although the gravity fed side boiler may be a later addition (c1840 onwards). The brick north wall with its large window may also belong to this phase and the window looked out onto a small yard to the north.

#### 9.3.8 *Early Dudley 1837-1870*

- 9.3.9 The next visible phase of activity is the addition of the fireplace and flue to the south of the main range. This appears to be an addition to the wall rather than an insertion into a pre-existing fabric. It is possible that the ranges and the side boiler were added at the same time as alterations to the adjoining laundry block in the 1860s.
- 9.3.10 The final form of the Victorian kitchen appears to have been a lofty almost square room possibly topped with a glazed lantern roof. This roof was supported on large stone corbels, two of which survive in situ. The kitchen was accessed by a door in the south-west corner leading to the kitchen maid's room and a door in the north-east corner leading to a service corridor and another door in the north wall led to the scullery. On the north wall was a large blocked window and this would have once looked out into the yard. Later when the scullery was inserted the window was blocked.
- 9.3.11 The focus of the kitchen was the two ranges and side boiler on the west wall. The southernmost of these ranges was a later addition, and there is a suggestion that these replaced an earlier open fireplace with a pothook supporting cauldrons. There were two (now missing) sinks on the southern wall and on the eastern wall the scars of shelving and internal partitions are still visible. The partitions appear to have formed a small office or a *batterie de cuisine* in the south-east corner of the room. The centre of the room probably held one or more large tables for food preparation.

### 9.4 **General Description of Fabric (Figs. 19-20)**

- 9.4.1 This is the smallest zone in the study area and consists of the west wall of the former kitchen and part of the churchyard wall above. As elsewhere this is only part of what was once a far larger building, which lay to the east and was physically connected to the main house. Parts of the east and south walls survive. The north wall, however, appears to be almost entirely a modern rebuild, although it closely follows the pattern of the original.
- 9.4.2 The remains of the kitchen consist mainly of a north-south wall containing two fireplaces and an alcove, which once contained a side boiler. This wall is half formed from the end of the churchyard wall and half formed of a separate projecting structure, which made up the east wall of the Housekeepers apartments. An east-west wall defines the northern part of the kitchen and connects it to the main house (this

wall is outside the study area and was heavily restored and rebuilt in recent times). The eastern walls of the kitchen also survive (again outside the study area).

- 9.4.3 The upper parts of the chimney, the churchyard wall, and the kitchen wall have all been rebuilt and heavily repaired since the monument has been in state guardianship (this probably occurred during the 1970s). This means that certain elements of the walling are not original but replacements. Some elements (such as the stone corbel) are not guaranteed to be in their original position. Other old work in this area included the painting of metalwork and the clearance of some areas. Even older repairs were noted inside the main fireplace where an area of very poorly built old repair had to be replaced during consolidation.

## 9.5 Detailed Description of Fabric (Figs 19-20)

- 9.5.1 The main elements within the study area are:

- **The Churchyard wall** this rises above the zone and includes a stone coping layer
- **The Kitchen Wall** An extension of the churchyard wall this partly revetts the churchyard and partly projects to the south
- **The Chimneys and Flues** The chimneys rise from the main range and joins with a number of flues from the adjacent zones, these all once fed into a massive chimney of which only the stump survives.
- **The Fireplaces** A fireplace with alcove for a boiler in a limestone surround and a detached fireplace (with soot box above) are the most obvious architectural elements in this zone and the most important surviving fittings of the kitchen.

- 9.5.2 During the survey, OA was required to examine the west wall of the kitchen in some detail and to carry out recording in advance of building work. As stated above the area had been the focus of earlier repair programmes and was thus little altered during recent work. The other walls of the kitchen were outside the scope of this study but were examined to provide information for reconstruction.

### 9.5.3 *The Churchyard Wall*

- 9.5.4 *Parapet Wall:* The parapet wall sits high above the kitchen and revetts the upper part of the churchyard (036), from here one may look down into the kitchen and the small courtyards to the north. The wall is made up of bricks of a late 19th century type. The parapet wall is not a simple solid wall but contains a number of flues and voids running through the thickness of the wall (see Fig 21). On the western side (facing into the churchyard), the wall has a bowed out projection topped with sloping brick and hides a flue running along the wall.

- 9.5.5 *The Rendered Surface:* During repair work a void was found beneath the eastern brick face of the parapet wall. Behind this void lay an earlier rendered wall set slightly back from the present (028). This wall was only visible through small holes made in the brickwork, it appeared however to be coated with the usual yellow render seen in many other parts of the service courts. The render may have been to fit



in with a unified scheme of decoration with the rest of the buildings and implies that this stretch of wall was visible (over the kitchen roof) from some of the higher windows on the main house. This rendering elsewhere at Witley took place during the Daukes alterations and it is likely that this area belongs to this date.

- 9.5.6 *The Junction with the Housekeepers Room:* The east churchyard wall joins with the housekeepers room at its southern end and this area is instructive in that three phases of activity and alteration are clearly visible. This includes the early back wall of a now vanished building (Phase IV) a flue running from east-west behind the housekeeper's room and the wall of the housekeeper's room (see Zone 4 for detailed descriptions of these features)
- 9.5.7 *Chimneys and Flues:* This zone was dominated by a large chimney which not only took the fumes of the main cooking range but also a number of flues running to it from surrounding buildings. Only the stump of the chimney survives from this and the upper part of this had been heavily restored during the 1970s or 1980s (033). The chimney was originally a very tall structure with three tall pots and is shown on a number of historic pictures rising above the surrounding buildings (Express and Star newspaper photographs 1937, see Hughes).
- 9.5.8 The flue of the right hand fireplace (022) feeds up from a complex sloped and banked base to a simple tapering circular flue. This has an iron bar with a slot just above the fireplace opening which presumably once held a gale hook which would have predated the range. The chimney flue tapers upwards and is not regular in layout. Its upper parts are made up of smaller flatter and earlier bricks and this suggests this was a pre-existing chimney altered at the base to take a new range.
- 9.5.9 The horizontal flues run behind the main chimney and presumably some entered it at a higher point (040), (as does an adjacent flue in zone 4). Where the flues may have entered the chimney they may have been obscured by the repairs to the upper parts of the wall carried out since the monument has been in state guardianship.
- 9.5.10 Another range was sited to the left of the main flue and this has a far simpler flue consisting of a square box like shaft with a pronounced dog leg. It accesses the base of the now missing upper part of the chimney next to the older flue (023). A simple iron framed iron door situated above the fireplace was the soot-box and allowed access to the flue.
- 9.5.11 *The Fireplaces*
- 9.5.12 *The main range:* The most noticeable surviving feature is the great central fireplace with its adjacent alcove and limestone fire surround (022). The surround is made of cream limestone with a slate mantel supported by limestone consoles. Stylistically it is a simple classical design, which could be 18th century in origin although it may belong to the various 19th-century alterations to the house. The surround is in a delicate condition and part of the central support is missing. The limestone is highly susceptible to face shaling and in places has lost its original surface.
- 9.5.13 The range consists of a fireplace with settings for a range on the left and an alcove on the right with a stone and gravel base, which would probably have supported a side



- boiler. The now missing range would have sat under a shallow brick arch supported by an iron strap. The brick sloped cheeks of the flue are still surviving and indicate the size of the range.
- 9.5.14 *The Side Boiler:* In the alcove to the right of the fireplace lies the base (made of vertical stone slabs filled with gravel and iron bars) water tank of a side boiler. Although this tank is entirely vanished pipe-work and a small fragment of iron plate survives in situ. A pipe enters the alcove from the right and this is partly cut into the stonework of the surround another pipe may have joined with the adjacent range. This suggests an enclosed gravity fed boiler, a type that appeared in the 1840s to replace the earlier single pipe side boilers.
- 9.5.15 *The Southern Fireplace:* This fireplace sits to the left of the main range and appears to be a later addition (023). The range itself is entirely missing but the banked base of the flues is still visible. Unlike its neighbour there is no fire surround, instead there is a simple shallow topped arch supported by an iron strap.
- 9.5.16 *Iron Brackets:* A row of iron brackets sits above the mantel, these are made of flat iron secured by large nails. These are likely to have been part of a now largely missing spit jack system which would have sat in front of the range. The brackets have been stripped and painted in a rust proof grey paint during earlier restorations. Unfortunately, this will have destroyed any evidence of clamps, which may have held the spit machinery in place.
- 9.5.17 *The Roof Structure*
- 9.5.18 The upper parts of the roof structure have been almost entirely obliterated by demolition, decay and earlier phases of repair and consolidation since the monument has been in state care. The west wall of the kitchen (in the study area) is the main surviving part of the kitchen, but the east wall also survives (at least in part). The north wall was almost entirely rebuilt in the 1970s or 1980s consolidation work. It has a flat upper surface and presumably closely follows the original height of the wall.
- 9.5.19 Beneath the parapet of the churchyard wall the roof line of the kitchen itself is indicated by a narrow string course to which are attached small fragments of lead and a number of nails. A stone corbel (025) on the southern end of the wall also represents the roof height and is mirrored by another corbel on the opposite (east) wall. On the east wall, a faint scar in the house wall indicates the line of the original roofline.
- 9.5.20 The lack of any gables and the scant remains of the roof structure suggest a lantern roof with a seemingly gentle pitch. The 1830s re-roofing plan however shows a normal pitched roof over the kitchen and continuing over part of what was later to become the scullery. This plan may either have never been implemented or the area was re-roofed during later changes. A lantern roof with either skylights or a glazed upper lantern would also allow light to enter the kitchen.

### 9.5.21 *Floor Surfaces*

9.5.22 The floor surfaces in this zone were covered during the survey by a layer of soil, which was not disturbed during restoration work. A small area of the north-west corner had been exposed before the survey, although all that was visible was a small area of degraded cement that may have once supported a tiled floor.

## 10 ZONE 5: THE CHURCHYARD EAST WALL

### 10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 The east wall of the churchyard looks out over a small and confined yard, which once contained a number of buildings including a large scullery, game preparation rooms and larders. Historical map evidence shows that there were a number of earlier buildings in the yard including a large circular structure. The yard is defined by the stone and brick churchyard wall and the church to the west, the brick cross wing to the north a 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick passage to the east and the kitchen to the south. Only the churchyard wall is within the OA study zone.

### 10.2 History: (Reconstruction Figure 19)

10.2.1 Pictorial evidence shows a sequence of different buildings once lay within this yard, phases of demolition and rebuilding have removed any trace of these earlier structures and excavation may be the only way to establish their nature and extent. Historic maps and plans show this area as undergoing a number of significant changes throughout its history. In plans of 1838 and 1842 the yard is shown as housing a large round structure, this has entirely vanished leaving no trace. By the late 19th century, this feature no longer appears and the area had been given over to game preparation.

10.2.2 In the later part of the 19th century regular large shooting parties frequently met at Witley and to cater for the large amount of game shot at these parties gutting rooms, a game larder and a plucking room were made to process store and hang the large amounts of game. The ground floor of the cross wing (outside the OA study area) retains its tiled walls gutting sinks and fly-proof gauze netting on the windows.

**Table 5 Summary of Development of Zone 5**

Phase	Events	Evidence
<i>Phase 1</i> 1400-1500 Medieval	Early terracing may have taken place in this area for the late medieval manor. The surviving medieval remains (encased in the cellars of the later house) are at the same ground level as the kitchen floor.	Ground levels in the basement of the main house.
<i>Phase 2</i> 1600-1665 Russells	Possible phases of terracing and building in or near this area.	As above
<i>Phase 3</i> 1655-1700 Early Foleys	Possible further terracing into the side of the sandstone knoll. The west wing of the house is set on this terrace.	Massive sandstone foundations of enlarged Foley mansion lie to the immediate east

**Table 5 Summary of Development of Zone 5**

Phase	Events	Evidence
<i>Phase 4</i> 1700-1750 Late Foleys		Lack of evidence of roofing and location slightly apart from main house.
<i>Phase 5</i> 1750-1837 V(1) Nash 1805	This area is used for a number of sculleries and small game preparation rooms	The roles of these rooms are shown on the 1888 plan and two game preparation rooms in the cross wing are virtually intact.

### 10.3 Phasing and Development of Fabric

#### 10.3.1 *Phase 1 1400-1500 Late Medieval-Phase 4 1700-1750 The Middle Foleys*

10.3.2 The earliest activity must be the terracing into the sandstone bedrock that is so clearly visible here at the base of the wall. The profile of this rock matches that found opposite beneath the walls of the main 17<sup>th</sup>-century house. The uppermost layer of the bedrock is cut into a shallow step. This is to provide a levelling course for the stonework above. This stonework consists of dressed rectangular blocks of local sandstone.

10.3.3 This was later capped by at least two phases of brick walling and the numerous horizontal flues or voids running along the upper part. Later insertions included vertical flues equipped with soot boxes.

#### 10.3.4 *Phase 4 1700-1750 The Middle Foleys-Phase 7 1870-1937 The Later Dudley House*

10.3.5 By the 19<sup>th</sup> century this small and somewhat cramped space was used partially for a number of sculleries and partly as outbuildings for the elaborate game preparation area which still partially survives under the cross wing (to the north of the yard). This tiny yard was overlooked by the windows of the scullery and the cross wing. When these smaller buildings were added is unsure but they do not appear to be part of the elaborate schemes of either Daukes or Nash.

#### 10.3.6 *Phase 8 1937-1972 Destruction*

10.3.7 This area remained untouched by the fire and it is unclear when these small buildings were removed. As low and insubstantial structures they would have proved relatively easy to demolish and this may explain why they only survive as wall footings. The almost hollow churchyard wall with its numerous voids and flues eventually required large-scale repair and consolidation, this was commenced in 2001.

### 10.4 General Description of Fabric

10.4.1 This eastern wall of the churchyard is the tallest unsupported length and the most complex of the visible churchyard walls. It rears over the narrow yard which lies to the east of the house and is overlooked to the west by the church and its supporting wall. These structures define a narrow lozenge shaped yard running north-south. The main feature of the fragment is the wall itself although floor surfaces and the

standing archaeology show that there were a number of other buildings in this yard although these have now disappeared.

## 10.5 Detailed Description of Fabric

10.5.1 The main elements within the study area are:

- The sandstone and brick churchyard wall.
- The scullery
- The plucking room.

### 10.5.2 *The Eastern Wall*

10.5.3 This impressive wall rears over the west side of the small yard, which makes up the north-easternmost part of the study area. The wall has had at least two buildings built up against it although these have almost entirely vanished leaving only scars. The largest of these buildings was the scullery at the south end. A plucking room was attached to the east end of the churchyard wall lying immediately beneath the east wall of the chancel.

10.5.4 *The Sandstone Wall:* An unusual feature of this Zone is the sandstone wall (050), which is used as a base for the brick wall above. This wall is made up of roughly squared blocks, which are neatly coursed and mortared. A slight projecting stringcourse runs along the mid part of the wall. Layers of later render have obscured the wall in a number of places.

10.5.5 The lowest part of the wall sits directly on the sandstone bedrock, which has been levelled and cut to receive the stones. The bedrock is cut into a slight step and on this rests a very thin course of stones (presumably a levelling course). Above this lowest course far larger dressed blocks are used. During survey it was noted that water was running along the line of the bedrock through the churchyard and out through the base of this wall, and this had severely damaged the rear faces of the lower stones.

10.5.6 This wall is overlain by brick walls above and a brick wall to the south (the scullery wall, 037) this suggests that this area of stone masonry is older than the surrounding brickwork. Petrological analysis carried out on behalf of English Heritage has shown that the stone is merely the local bedrock and was quarried on or near the site. The small blocks are unlike the massive examples used in the main house and are similar in size to the east wall of the kitchen and the medieval and early modern basements beneath the main house.

10.5.7 *The Brick Wall:* This wall (or more accurately series of walls) (037) lies to the south of the brick wall and is made up of red bricks of a generic 18th-19<sup>th</sup>-century type. The wall has been repaired and cut by flues numerous times and it has suffered from one major collapse which has exposed the flues within.

### 10.5.8 *Flues*

10.5.9 The presence of a number of flues running through the east wall of the churchyard



was clearly visible before consolidation work began (Fig 21). In places this network of voids had collapsed and added to the wall's instability. Three horizontal flues were visible running along the east end of the east wall, several vertical flues were also visible some of these led to vents for boilers and soot boxes.

10.5.10 The flues all feed to the great chimney which sat at the corner of the churchyard above the kitchen. This massive structure was also joined by flues from the nursery court and the ranges of the kitchen itself and is visible on various period illustrations as a large stack with numerous pots.

10.5.11 During work, it became apparent that there were far more flues inside the wall than was apparent on the surface. These included four horizontal flues running along the top of the wall and extending some way into the graveyard. As well as the horizontal and vertical flues there were a number running at angles along the wall. The flues are mostly constructed simply of brick although some are lined with slabs or ceramic tiles. Their condition varied greatly and in several of the flues water damage and frost had made the exterior surface particularly thin and fragile.

10.5.12 The flues were evidently neither built at once nor in use simultaneously. There are numerous additions and alterations including examples of blocking and intercutting. During work, only small areas of the flues were opened up before consolidation this allowed only small glimpses of the interior and a complete analysis of phasing was not possible with the available information.

10.5.13 One of the vertical flues which cuts through three horizontal flues was later reused as a drainpipe for water running off the scullery roof. This drain was fed by a standard cast iron hopper head, which had been mounted backwards so that its bracket faced into the flue. This reuse led to severe water damage and deterioration of the brickwork.

10.5.14 The presence of soot boxes, stoke holes and cast iron doors and fittings show that some of these flues once served a number of stoves or boilers in this area. The southernmost of these are likely to be associated with the system of hot water boilers serving the scullery. The two northern features are more problematic but must have served free-standing boilers some distance from the wall and these may have stood under a now vanished roof or shelter. Interestingly a photo of 1912 (Webb) shows two such boilers somewhere at Witley Court. Again the purpose of the boilers may have been for heating water either for the kitchens or perhaps also the main house. These boilers also may be related to the poorly understood hot air heating system of the house.

#### 10.5.15 *Scullery and Plucking Room*

10.5.16 *Vanished Buildings:* A number of vanished buildings once lay in this yard; the scullery and plucking room both leaned against the churchyard wall and a number of game preparation and storage rooms lay to the north (outside the study area). These buildings are now only represented by floor surfaces and the slight scars on the churchyard wall itself. They were built as lean-to's on the main wall. They would have almost entirely filled the present yard and were used for game and meat preparation, storage and a scullery.



- 10.5.17 *The Scullery*: The scullery (marked as such on the plan of 1888) lies to the immediate north of the kitchen and was accessed through the door in the north wall of the kitchen. This was a large room with three sinks around it (the bases for these survive in places). On the west wall, the base for a table (a slate top with brick supports) is clearly visible as is the scarring left by a water tank or boiler.
- 10.5.18 The scullery was lit by a single window on the northern wall. This window survives as a springer in the almost entirely ruinous north wall. The height of the roof can be ascertained by the line of flashing on the churchyard wall and a cast iron rainwater hopper and gutter also attest to vanished roof structures. It is likely that this roof was at least partially glazed, as light from the scullery must have shone through the large window in the south wall to illuminate the otherwise dark kitchen. A door from the north of the scullery led to a storeroom or larder. This room also had access to the north-south corridor from where two other larders could be entered (these lie outside the study area).
- 10.5.19 *The Plucking Room*: To the north of the yard stood a small lean-to building built against the east revetment wall of the church (and mostly outside the study area). This building now only survives as a floor surface, the lowest course of bricks, and some flashing on the adjacent walls. The flashing of its single pitch roof is clearly visible on the surrounding rendered walls and shows that the building was single storied, but was tall. The walls have all but disappeared apart from low foundations but the red quarry tiled floor survives in good condition. From the plan of 1888 this room has been identified as the plucking room and it seems as if this entire small courtyard was dedicated to game/meat preparation. In the link block to the north tiled gutting and hanging rooms with sinks and windows protected with gauze screens still survive in good condition.

## 11 SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

### 11.1 Summary of building events

#### 11.1.1 Phase 1 1400-1500 Late Medieval- Phase 4 1700-1750 The Middle Foleys

- 11.1.2 The earliest identifiable activity on the site that may survive in any form is the initial terracing of the small hill on which the church now stands. The earlier church sat to the west of the surviving Georgian church and was a sandstone structure with a tower at its west end. This early church is shown on a (now missing) late 17<sup>th</sup>-century painting of the house and village, and this painting also shows a wall (or perhaps a road terraced into the hillside) on the site later to become the service court. Whatever this feature is it was the earliest known feature on this site.

- 11.1.3 At the eastern end of the service courts (Zone 5) hidden in the lee of the great house survives some of the earliest work. The late medieval undercroft has been partially excavated from the soft local sandstone, as have some of the adjoining cellars. The western side of the house is built on solid bedrock and its brick walls are based on large sandstone block walls (these relate to the 16th or 17th-century house). In one place the bedrock dipped steeply down (a characteristic of the original sand dunes

with make up this aeolian borne rock). This gap has been spanned with an arch of brick to provide a stable base for the brickwork above. It is during (or before) the construction of the foundations in this area that the first terracing would have taken place.

11.1.4 This terracing must have been revetted in some way on its western side, as the steep slope of the hill would have otherwise slumped down onto it. The sandstone wall (050) which survives in Zone 5 may be part of this early revetment. There is very little left of any early buildings in the service area. A few features in Zones 4 and 5 indicate that there were early structures here (evidence includes the joist impressions and vaulting on the churchyard wall and the sandstone wall and circular chimney flue in the kitchen.

11.1.5 These earlier buildings may consist of a detached early sandstone kitchen with a tall hall like building to its west. It is impossible on the very limited evidence to ascribe these buildings to any discrete period or phase and they simply remain as being 'early' in date. Buried remains of earlier buildings may survive hidden beneath later floor surfaces.

11.1.6 The next major phase of activity must be the addition of the earliest phase of the churchyard wall and the terracing of the sides of the hill. This is again a period of activity which is impossible to date with any degree of certainty but is the earliest visible event in the sequence. The eastern half of the churchyard wall may be mostly associated with the siting of the new church (moved eastwards in 1733). The church was placed on top of a rocky outcrop (as seen on its northern side). On the south side, the graveyard was heightened with a level of made up ground. The creation of this graveyard should be either contemporary with the building of the church or a little later.

#### 11.1.7 **Phase 5 (1) c 1805 Nash**

11.1.8 The next major significant and identifiable phase of activity was the construction of the large and elaborate stable yard in or around 1805. These new buildings were placed either in a pre-existing terrace or a new terrace was dug to contain the buildings. The buildings consist of the long north stables, the south stables opposite, the east and west gatehouses and the coach houses to the west. These designs were either by Nash himself or were based upon or inspired by his general directions.

11.1.9 The new buildings replaced the earlier detached stable block and service wings which flanked the main facade of the house on the north side. These wings may have been considered unfashionable by the late 18th century and the servants were now to be hidden away rather than being on display. The wings may have also obscured the views from the house of recently constructed landscape gardens and the lake.

#### 11.1.10 **Phase 6 1837-1870 The Early Dudley House**

11.1.11 Minor alterations continued through the first decades of the 19th century. By 1837, plans were drawn up by Griffith for re-roofing the yards. These plans survive but how far the scheme was implemented remains unknown, and in several key areas the plans do not correspond to the visible archaeology.

11.1.12 By the 1850s, Samuel Whitfield Daukes was commissioned to remodel the house. The house was clad in a thin veneer of stone in this mostly cosmetic exercise. Italianate details were added to the main house including many balustrades and urns along many of the roof lines. Parts of the service area remained mostly unchanged apart from the addition of coloured render to match the new stonework. In the eastern part of the service courts, the change was more dramatic. The laundry block was built on the site of an earlier longer building and an elegant sweeping curved wing and arcaded courtyard was added. New buildings were also added to the north of the new orangery, which replaced a far smaller example. Amongst the improvements were Italianate arcades constructed on the north and south sides of the kitchen court. This created a small enclosed courtyard with a loggia or cloister-like arcade overlooked by tall buildings.

#### 11.1.13 Phase 7 1870-1937 The Later Dudley House

11.1.14 Changes in the latter 19th and early 20th century were limited, and after the massive expenditure under Daukes there seems to have been no large-scale alteration in the service area. After the fire of 1937 (in the main house), the house rapidly fell into a state of dilapidation. During the war there was talk of refurbishing the main house as billets for soldiers but even by this period the house was deemed as being beyond rescue. During the war a bottling plant was housed in the stables and there are still many metal lids and glass bottles around the buildings. A mushroom farm was also housed in the tunnels and cellars.

#### 11.1.15 Phase 8 1937-1972 Destruction

11.1.16 By the late 1940s and early 1950s the buildings were being demolished in search of raw materials (particularly iron). The buildings of the service courts suffered most because their structural ironwork was more easily accessible than in the main house. By the time Witley Court came into guardianship in the 1970s only the coach houses, gatehouses and the south wall of the stables remained standing.

#### 11.1.17 Phase 9 Guardianship

11.1.18 After the house passed into guardianship the service courts were only partially consolidated and the area was largely used for storage and site huts. Since guardianship, work has been carried out on the west gatehouse, the coach houses and the kitchens. The present works started in July 2001.

### 11.2 The Service Courts in their historical and social context

11.2.1 As with all large and famous buildings the architectural and archaeological focus at Witley Court has been the main house. The service courts whilst being of immense importance have received far less attention, partly because of their poor preservation and perceived lack of architectural merit. The importance of the courts as a piece of social history however is immense and the buildings themselves reflect not only the changing fortunes and development of the house and estate but of society as a whole.

- 11.2.2 The earliest service areas at Witley were the detached twin blocks either side of the main front facade and possibly the kitchen in Zone 4. It seems likely however that some domestic functions would have always been carried out in the extensive network of cellars beneath the house. These detached 18th-century service blocks typify late renaissance attitudes to aristocracy and service. The buildings are very visible flanking and guarding the great house and acting as an ostentatious display of wealth and power. The servants were in many ways 'on show' and the visibility and size of these wings was a demonstration of the number of staff serving the house. This attitude may be seen as a survival of the medieval and early renaissance idea of a lord's retinue, in which the servants would play the same roles as courtiers in a royal court and were to be displayed not hidden from view. It also emphasises the surprisingly close relationships that existed between noble families and retainers.
- 11.2.3 It is interesting to note however that at almost exactly the same time as the service wings were built, the village behind the house (which would perhaps have formerly housed many of these servants) was demolished and the population removed. In some ways this may have been seen as an act of paternalism in removing old and perhaps insanitary housing. It also demonstrates however that those outside of the retinue were regarded very differently from those within the noble household.
- 11.2.4 The demolition of the medieval church and the construction of the new classical church in the 1730s also demonstrates that even this institution was entirely subject to the whims and tastes of the lord and that the feeling of opinions of other users were irrelevant.
- 11.2.5 By the end of the 18th century social attitudes were changing rapidly and the demolition of the flanking wings may be viewed as a product of this process. Servants were slowly being reduced in status from loyal and trusted retainer to necessary functionaries who could and should be hidden from view. The flanking ranges would also have been seen as somewhat old fashioned and may have been felt that they marred the approach to the house and detracted attention from the facade with its new colonnade. They would have also limited the views from the house of the new parkland and particularly the lake.
- 11.2.6 After demolition of the flanking wings it became necessary to fit all the necessary services into an area allotted to them in the terraced side of the hill upon which sat the new church. Priority was given to the new stables (it is possible that some earlier stables lay on this site) these were to replace the old stables in the flanking wings. These were built on a lavish scale with two great ranges linked by gatehouses forming a large and elegant courtyard. This yard was entered through a gate set between two refined coach houses, which lay in a smaller yard to the west.
- 11.2.7 Despite the grand scale of the stables they were secondary to the work by Nash in the great house and may have been based on an idea by him or one of his assistants rather than a formal design. The poor construction in many areas also contrasts with the main house as does the use of poor and sometimes unsuitable materials (refractory bricks, under fired bricks, extensive timber lacing etc). The location of the buildings and a liberal coat of render hid many of these short comings of design and craftsmanship.



- 11.2.8 The stables were a high status group of buildings designed to accommodate valuable animals and would no doubt have been frequently visited by the family and guests. The rest of the service wings however were not. It appears that after the demolition of the old flanking wings domestic activities were crammed into the small area next to the kitchen, the cellars and basements under the house and the outer court. The servants themselves would probably have lived in hidden attics and garrets within the main house. The servants hall was most probably on the site of the later housekeepers room and laundry block and is represented by some joist scars and plasterwork.
- 11.2.9 By the early 19th century most of the staff were hidden away not only from the family and guests of the house but also each other. It has long been rumoured that the tunnel running from the laundry to the drying green was designed to hide laundry maids from the stable lads and this would seem entirely appropriate to the spirit of the age (this would also have allowed them a route clear of the traffic and mess of the stables). By the late 19th century this emphasis on division had increased so much that a deep tunnel was dug from the coal yard behind the Orangery to the basement of the main house. This allowed the delivery of coal (via a tramway) with no disturbance either to the main house or the highly compartmentalised world of the servants.
- 11.2.10 In the 1860s Samuel Whitfield Daukes carried out massive alterations and additions to the main house and part of the service area. This included the construction of the great curving nursery wing, a new laundry block and the creation of an arcade and enclosed courtyard behind the nursery. This new courtyard was now the focus of service life with a new stewards and cooks room and a servants hall, compared with many houses however it is still a confined and limited area. The Daukes repairs however saw some of the fine quality and innovational constructional techniques used in the main house begin to appear in the service area.
- 11.2.11 The late Victorian service areas were a complex mass of buildings with many cellars and sub basements. The massive number of boilers and flues is exceptional and indicates the semi industrial nature of maintaining such a large household. That the kitchen remained so small and largely unaltered during this period is something of a mystery and does not compare favourably with similar sized houses. The following of contemporary fashions and tastes are more evident in the later 19th-century refurbishment of the stables with their hygienic white glazed tiles, ventilation for each stall and elaborate drainage.
- 11.2.12 The service courts at Witley were untouched by the fire of 1937 and despite some destruction appear to have remained largely intact until the 1950s at least. These ruinous buildings are in many ways as important as the main house to the history of the site and they are illustrative of a fascinating story of social change and development on this site throughout the last three centuries.

### 11.3 Significant features

- 11.3.1 Nearly all the buildings investigated by OA were almost totally ruinous (and before conservation) in very poor condition. They are still however important monuments



and are listed and scheduled along with the rest of the core of the Witley Court estate. The buildings may at first appear to be of little architectural merit. Some (such as the stables) are a common monument type with country houses of this size. What makes these buildings important is not their refinement, constructional techniques or history but rather it is their historic function and their grouping in such a small and confined area.

- 11.3.2 Significant features within the buildings include the use of new techniques and materials including iron girders and reinforcement. Developments in stabling including loose boxing, improved ventilation, tiling and drainage are clearly evident.
- 11.3.3 The evidence in the service courts at Witley Court consists of three main types, upstanding wall surfaces which have many phases of alteration, largely intact floor surfaces (which are mostly of one date) and buried and hidden archaeology behind later walls and under floor surfaces. Consequently only in small and discrete areas do we have windows into the earlier archaeology and this is often difficult to understand and interpret. The visible standing archaeology however is mostly readily understandable.

#### 11.4 Problems and future research questions

##### 11.4.1 *Technical innovations in the Service Courts*

- 11.4.2 One of the surprises of this project was that the innovational constructional techniques seen in the main house are not represented in the service area. The buildings are on the whole made up of simple (and often crude) brickwork not untypical of its time. The large use of expensive refractory bricks in the stables is unusual although this is reuse not technical innovation.
- 11.4.3 The iron beams (with or without wood reinforcement) and the massive use of structural iron is hardly represented apart from a lone beam in the laundry block. The reason for this seeming lack of technical innovation in the service blocks may be that every iron item however small was removed during demolition. This has given a false impression of the amount actually used. An undisturbed area of the buried sub basement had thin iron beams supporting a stone slab floor and it is likely this technique was used elsewhere. An early example of a slate damp course was also found in this basement.
- 11.4.4 The most interesting technological aspect is the massive number of boiler bases and flues seen throughout the eastern end of the service court. These are largely of unknown function and it is certain that a number of the so called flues are either the products of laziness and thrift in construction or an attempt to make a form of cavity wall. None of the flues are obviously part of a hot air heating system like that in the main house.
- 11.4.5 During clearance of the site a number of boiler bases became apparent both at the base of the churchyard wall and in the excavated sub-basements these may have formed a variety of functions including feeding the massive hypocaust heating system in the house. They would have also heated the coppers and tanks of the laundry and various sculleries. The sheer number of boilers in the service courts may

help explain the massive amounts of fuel used in the house (up to 30 tons per day). These features may be found all over Witley Court and remain poorly understood and in need of further investigation

- 11.4.6 In light of recent work further documentary research may prove fruitful as with increased understanding of the fabric it may now be easier to interpret and understand some references. The documentary material relating to the court is deposited in a number of locations and has been only partially investigated.
- 11.4.7 A future avenue of research, which may prove invaluable, would be to systematically collect and record anecdotes and reminiscences of local people. During work in the service area and the gardens a great deal of valuable hearsay information was passed on by interested members of the public and these included stories about the houses inhabitants, the appearance and function of the buildings and the fate of various removed architectural elements. An attempt should be made to collect the information in the near future as those who may have the most valuable information are often elderly.
- 11.4.8 A larger investigation of the gardens is underway at the time of writing and the house has been intensively recorded and studied. It is apparent however that the wider estate has been the focus of very little research (partly as it all is now in private ownership). This vast estate with its parkland, kennels, lakes and ponds, engine house, cottages and farm is an integral part of the story of Witley Court and should not be divorced from it. Future research could look at historical records relating to the wider estate and the recording of key buildings and elements. In an even wider context the history and development of other Foley and Dudley houses (particularly Oldswinford College, Stourbridge and Himley Hall Worcester) may show useful parallels both in physical remains and social history.

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### WITLEY COURT

The Development of the Service Yards  
an assessment based on documentary sources

DR. PAT HUGHES

PRODUCED FOR ENGLISH HERITAGE

September 1998

*OA Scan of report text, March 2003*



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## Witley Court: The Development of the Service Yards An assessment based on documentary sources\*

By Dr. Pat HUGHES

### INTRODUCTION

The fire at Witley Court, which destroyed the east wing in 1937, did not touch the service yards on the west of the house. These remained intact until well after the 1938 sale took place. Then, during the 1940s, the demolition merchants moved in; and before 1946 most of the stable yard roofs had been removed and the courtyard walls of the north and south range of stables demolished. By 1949 the only remaining roofs were those on the coach houses and gatehouses and weeds and bushes were taking over the corners of the site (SY1). Any reconstruction of the area therefore depends on an understanding of the archaeology and a careful study of such plans and visual images that are available.

When it comes to looking at the layout of the service yards the first dependence has been on plans. The yards were not laid out all at once and it has been intriguing to unravel the various stages of building. A number of plans cover the period between 1817 and 1837 when this development took place, and they have been carefully compared to produce the conclusions set out in this report.

The development and layout of the eighteenth century service yards at Witley Court reflects to a large extent the interests and inclinations of the occupants of the Court and the way the whole property was used. It is difficult therefore to separate the history of the family from the history of the building, for the two interact, and the one illuminates the other. The rise and fall of the family fortunes is well illustrated by the series of plans available. The first, drawn in 1793, was made on the death of the notorious 2nd Baron Foley of Kidderminster, nicknamed Lord Balloon (for chart, see over). Accompanied by a survey, it shows the state of the park after twenty years of neglect. The second plan, of 1817, appears to have been produced to mark the changes made to house and estate by the 3rd Baron, who, following a profitable marriage, employed John Nash to remodel the court and build new service yards. A third series of plans, with detailed estimate for repair, produced for the repairs to the roofs of house and service yards in 1837, provides further details for the yards, and indicates the damage done by shoddy workmanship during Nash's rebuilding, and the replacements needed. The family finances, thanks to gross over-spending by the 3rd Baron, had reached crisis point and the repair work was finished just in time to make the estate an attractive proposition for Lord Ward's trustees, looking for an investment for their wayward charge. Another map, of 1837, was prepared for the sale negotiations, and was closely followed by the tithe map of the parish, made the following year, which shows the alterations to the service yards put in hand immediately after the sale by Lord Ward's trustees.<sup>1</sup>

The plans have been augmented with information from five account books surviving from the series kept by the trust which was set up to administer the estate after the death of the 1st Baron Foley of Kidderminster in 1777. His son, the 2nd Baron (Lord

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\* This is a scanned version of Dr Hughes' report, unrevised, but with minor text corrections, and the endnotes converted to footnotes. The illustrations have been omitted.

<sup>1</sup> Birmingham Record Office, hereafter BRO, EBM 68, 69, 70, 72; WROs760/289 BA 1572.

Balloon), was not considered sufficiently responsible to take charge of his inheritance. Another account book for 1837 catalogues the progress of the sale to Lord Ward.<sup>2</sup>

Lord Foley 1 (1)

redesigned N. approach to the house  
planned the church d. 1733

Lord Foley H (2) -----  
altered the C17th house,  
died unmarried 1766

Thomas Foley (3) of Stoke Edith m Grace Granville  
inherited Witley from his cousin  
in 1766, created Baron Foley  
of Kidderminster 1776,  
d. 1777, left the estate in trust.

Thomas 2d Baron Foley (4) m Lady Harriot Stanhope  
(Lord Balloon) 1776 d. in childbirth 1780  
gambler d. 1793.

Edward  
inherited  
Stoke Edith

Andrew +daughters  
the good son  
Trustee for the estates

Caroline Georgiana Harriot  
1777

William  
1778-89

Charles  
1779-1790

Thomas 3d Baron Foley(5)m  
1780-1833

Cecilia Fitzgerald  
1806

Commissioned Nash, built the stable yards.  
His son Thomas (6) sold to Lord Ward's trustees in 1837

As might be expected, images of the actual service yards are few and far between and information for the earlier period has had to be extracted from sections of larger drawings or paintings. Photographs have been more helpful, but the yards appear mainly as the background to groups, or pictures of horses. Most of these are mere snap-shots, taken by Lady Honor Ward about 1909, and some are woefully out of focus. Nevertheless they provide information that would otherwise be lost and for that reason they have been included in this report.

#### THE BACKGROUND -THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY SERVICE AREA

From the evidence available at present, it seems that the service area belonging to the seventeenth-century Witley Court was on the eastern side of the building. The kitchen was in the basement of the east wing, while the stables and yard appear to have been placed on the north side of the present east garden, where a range of buildings appear on the right of the house in the only images of the Court which survive (SY2 and 3).<sup>3</sup> Access to the house from the west was by a lane, which meandered across the park and from the east, by a series of lanes and a planted avenue

#### THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY SERVICE YARDS

Shortly before 1733, the then Lord Foley redesigned the approach to his mansion, creating a lake in the ravine north of the house, and spanning it with a causeway and a bridge. An avenue of trees led from the bridge to join the Worcester/Tenbury road

<sup>2</sup> Worcestershire Record Office, hereafter WRO, b705:550 BA4600/372; 899:3 10 BA 10470/145; Herefordshire Record Office, hereafter HRO, E12/iii/183, 184 and 185; E12/W/10.

<sup>3</sup> The evidence for this statement comes from the map of the estate made by C. Price in 1732, HRO f494.44 BA 11976, from the photograph in Great Witley Church and from the copy inventory HRO E12/IV/135/56



somewhat west of the present car park. He housed his stables, carriage houses and possibly his servants, in two blocks that flanked the main house and were linked to it by curved walls. These walls were pierced by gates, which led to the yards behind.<sup>4</sup> At the back of the yard, on the west side against the church wall, stood more buildings and it is possible that these were originally kitchens.

Lord Foley also made plans to remodel the house itself, but died before these could be put into effect. The work was put in hand by his son, the second Lord Foley. Plans of the chamber floor, made for this stage of the building, have survived. They show the link with the church, but understandably they contain no indication of the position of the kitchens or the service areas. However, by the end of the eighteenth century, a kitchen, the remains of which can still be seen, had been constructed on the west side of the house. The date of this kitchen is in some dispute; although it was not part of the second Lord Foley's initial project, it may well have been added in the latter years of his life, when he apparently entertained widely at Witley. The poet William Shenstone visited him there and so also did Edward Knight of Wolverley, both in 1762. Their letters imply that such entertaining was a regular occurrence.<sup>5</sup> Lord Foley's successor, however, Mr. Thomas Foley of Stoke Edith, preferred his Herefordshire home and his son, the notorious 'Lord Balloon', seems to have spent his entire time in London or Newmarket. The extant account books for the eighteenth century indicate that Witley Court was mainly shut up, run by a skeleton staff, and rarely used by the family.<sup>6</sup> It is therefore unlikely that this Lord Foley wasted his time and money building kitchens for which he had little use. These facts suggest that the kitchen may date from the second Lord Foley's time.

Against this it must be said that the kitchen and its associated building does not appear on the Burney watercolour of the church, painted about 1784 - it could be screened by trees - but is clearly marked on the map of the estate drawn by George Young in 1793 (SY4 and 5). At present, therefore, it can only be said that this building, with its large open hearth and oven spaces, must have been built between 1750 and 1793. Later evidence implies that it was a gabled building with the ridge running north/south and a tall chimney rising above the adjoining buildings (see SY15 & 35).<sup>7</sup> A window was inserted in the 'gable end towards the house' as part of the 1837 alterations.<sup>8</sup>

Another range of buildings adjacent to the kitchen and running at right angles to the house under the churchyard wall is also marked on the 1793 map. This appears to be the building that housed the steward's and housekeeper's rooms and the servants' hall, and was later incorporated into the kitchen court (SY6) (see below). The second row of buildings to the west of this range appears to be on the site of the later stable yard and might form the basis for the buildings on the south side.

In 1800 and 1801 the accounts prepared for the trustees imply that building work was taking place in the service area. The building work heralded a new lease of life for the court and the interest of the heir, Thomas, third and only surviving son of 'Lord balloon'. His coming of age celebrations in December 1801 were to be held at the

<sup>4</sup> J. Wilmot, *The Life of the Rev. John Hough* (1812), 306; BL. Add. Ms 23940 f.50

<sup>5</sup> WRO 899: 310 10472/2 Letters from William Shenstone to Edward Knight; M. Williams, *Letters of William Shenstone* (1929), 643.

<sup>6</sup> WRO b899:310 BA 10470/145(a) 1779; HRO E12/iii/1 83 1790.

<sup>7</sup> Royal Institute of British Architects (hereafter RIBA) Drawings Collection, Co C Add 1/1; E 12/W/14.

<sup>8</sup> HRO E12/W/14, p.7.

Court, and during the autumn the house was opened up and a house-party held.<sup>9</sup>

In preparation for the event the kitchen and brewhouse were refitted, with new tubs and coolers and new bars for the furnaces in tile brewhouse, and a new door and frame for the kitchen oven (SY7). In addition the servants' hall was re-slatted and bricks and tiles were delivered for the erection of a new building of some size. It is suggested that this new construction may have formed the basis for the eastern gatehouse.<sup>10</sup> Certain anomalies in the construction of the gatehouse block might be explained if the building predated the main stable yard.

In the event the celebrations were not as extensive as expected; a nasty accident when his horse fell on the hunting field the previous month may have led Lord Foley to cut short the festivities and substitute money gifts to the neighbouring parishes for the customary entertainment of his tenants.<sup>11</sup>

#### THE NASH SCHEME

It is usually considered that the stable yard at Witley Court was designed by Nash and formed part of his re-modelling of the mansion. Nash's assistant, George Repton, visited the court, during 1803-5, and made drawings of the building and its setting.<sup>12</sup> The finances of the Foley family, however, did not allow work to start at once. In fact, it seems, that it was not until 1810, when Nash himself concocted a scheme that made Lord Foley's London house a prime site for development, and then did a deal with Foley for the purchase of the site, that building work on the court was able to get underway.<sup>13</sup> Certainly the engraving produced for Angus' *Views*, and dated 1810 shows the stable blocks on the north front still in place.<sup>14</sup> (SY8)

The construction work was finished by 1817 when a plan of the estate was prepared for Lord Foley (SY 9).<sup>15</sup> It is unfortunate that, although this plan outlines the three courts contained within the service area, the detail is far from accurate. The inner court is drawn as if it were the larger, while the gateways from coach yard to stable yard and from stable yard to kitchen court are depicted as central, whereas they are actually on the south side of the complex. Another plan, drawn by C.R.Cockerell three years later, when he visited Witley briefly on Christmas Eve, tallies better with the architectural evidence, with the gateways correctly aligned and with the courtyards drawn the right size (SY 11).<sup>16</sup> Even so it is clear that Cockerell was running out of time when he came to draw the service courts. The coach houses are merely blocked in, and the alignment of the south wall of the coach yard is in the wrong place. Even worse, the kitchen court is in the churchyard, though the kitchen itself is in approximately the correct position. In this case the 1817 plan is more reliable. Neither of these plans can therefore be depended on entirely and both have to be used in conjunction with the architectural evidence.

<sup>9</sup> HRO E 12/iii/184 and 185, 1800, 1801; *Worcester Herald* 1801, Dec. 19th.

<sup>10</sup> HRO E12/iii/185

<sup>11</sup> *Worcester Herald* 1801, Nov. 10, Dec. 26th.

<sup>12</sup> RIBA Drawings Collection, L1/2.

<sup>13</sup> J. Summerson, *The Life and Work of John Nash* (1980), 82.

<sup>14</sup> Witley Court, *Angus Views 1810*. [W. Angus, *The Seats of the Nobility and Gentry in Great Britain and Wales, in a collection of select views engraved by W. Angus ... 1787*, reissued 1815 with 15 extra plates].

<sup>15</sup> BRO EBM 70.

<sup>16</sup> RIBA Drawings Collection CoC Add 1/2; RIBA Library CoC/9/2.

## THE LATER DEVELOPMENT OF THE COURTYARDS

### THE OUTER COURTYARD

The 1817 plan shows a small enclosed courtyard to the north of the main stable yard. It was surrounded on two sides by buildings of some sort. Access was from the side carriage entrance through the drying yard. Another plan, dated 1837, must have been drawn in the last year of the Foleys' occupation, probably as part of the negotiations for transferring the estate. It shows slight modifications to the outer yard with the blocking of the entrance from the carriage drive and a change in the line of the wall (SY 10).<sup>17</sup> By 1838, when the tithe map was made, a date which coincides with the sale of the Court to Lord Ward, but is still more than ten years before the Dawkes alterations, considerable changes had been made to the outer yard area (SY 12).

Various reasons can be advanced for these changes. It is likely that in 1817, when the first map was made, the area to the north and west of the coach yard, which was used as a drying green, was, like the kitchen garden, simply not finished. The later map shows the site completed, squared off and walled. On the east was a small, enclosed courtyard on the south side of which there was a long building, with a slated roof. If this was used as extra stables, as it was at a later date, it had no direct access from the carriage drive.

The changes between the Foley map of 1837 and the tithe map of 1838 must reflect the improvements made by Lord Ward's trustees after they took over the property. These changes reduced the size of the drying green to accommodate a large, second courtyard and are shown more clearly on an enlarged version of the tithe map, made for Lord Ward in 1842 (SY13). This courtyard, which had no communication with the drying green, was walled, and a new gateway on the west gave direct access to the carriage drive. The second gateway on the south side is a later insertion, probably part of Dawkes' alterations. Since the wooden gates in this area of the grounds are all of the same type, it is likely that they all date from the same period. The courtyard was surrounded on three and a half sides by buildings, some of which were clearly pens for livestock, perhaps pigs. Stock, cows and calves, were still being kept in this outer yard a hundred years later.<sup>18</sup>

### *Comparison of the 1817, 1837 and 1842 maps*

It will be seen that it is impossible to reconcile all the features of the maps. Where the similarities of layout seem to be clear, even though the drawing is faulty, an attempt has been made at correlation. This has been done with some degree of success with the outer courtyard and drying green and the stable and coach yards.

There is, however, a marked difference between the estate maps of 1817 and 1837 and the 1838 tithe map, in the layout of the east end of the service yard complex and its junction with the main house. In this case the large scale plans, prepared for the 1837 re-roofing, conflict with the 1837 estate map and support the evidence of the tithe map. The fact that Griffith's 1837 plans were produced early in 1837, in April, makes it unlikely that alterations took place between the two 1837 surveys and suggests that the estate surveyor of 1837 'lifted' his house plan from the 1817 map, making very selective alterations.

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<sup>17</sup> BRO EBM 72.

<sup>18</sup> Sale Catalogue 1938 p. 16.

## THE ROOF REPAIRS 1837

In 1837, the year before the tithe plan was surveyed, extensive repair work took place on the house and in the service area at the court. Nash had roofed both the north and south porticoes and the newly constructed stable block and service areas with some sort of composition, a move that suggests that the roofs were very low pitched. This covering proved so unsatisfactory that, barely twenty years after it was put in place, new roofs had to be provided. Cockerell's sketch of the west side of the Court supports the theory that the roofs were of shallow pitch and it is further endorsed by the specification and estimate given by the builder, Josiah Griffiths, who was commissioned to repair the building in 1837 (SY15).<sup>19</sup> This estimate not only indicates that substantial amounts of new timber would be required for the repair work, but also implies that the gables would need to be built up. Included with the estimate were detailed plans showing the area covered by the work and these plans, although primarily concerned with the roofs, can also be used, with the schedule of work, to fill out the picture of the service buildings. The repairs made little impact on the outer yard, which at that time was largely empty of buildings, but must have altered the appearance of the coach yard and stable yard very considerably. The offending composition was to be stripped from almost all of the roofs. The roofs of the main house were to be covered with Bangor Queen slates and those in the service area with Bangor Duchess or Countess slates. The eaves and gables were to be finished with 1½ inch fascias and projecting soffits and these are shown on the drawings and plans (SY 16).<sup>20</sup>

## THE COACH YARD

The coach yard is the first of the main yards to be entered and is the best preserved of the service yards. Here, although, some of the buildings are mere shells and the double coach house on the south has lost its original roof, two of the carriage houses are essentially intact and the courtyard -retains something of its original form. It is entered by a driveway flanked by two carriage houses facing, gable end, into the yard. The detail designed by Griffiths is still apparent on the gables of these buildings and can be identified from his drawings. The doors, to these two coach houses are the original ones and are different in design from the yard gates, which were probably replaced either in Lord Ward's first remodelling of this area or by Dawkes.

On the south side, with roof line - now covered with corrugated iron - parallel to the yard were two more coach houses, each with a pair of large doors. Some of the hinges remain, but the doors have been removed and the space filled in with breeze block. In 1837 the carriage houses were ceiled, and any damage to the ceilings during the roofing work was to be made good. There are no known pictures of this side of the yard.

Although the roof layout of this building is shown on Griffith's plans, the privy attached to the west gable end of the building is not shown. This privy is marked in the 1817 and 1837 plans, and not on the later tithe map or the 1842 plan. The schedule submitted by the Griffiths required the privies to be covered with stone or slate slabs as part of the 1837 work.<sup>21</sup> Even if it was not to be re-roofed, the disappearance is something of a mystery in view of the continuing existence of the building.

On the north side of the yard stood a single storey building which may have started life as a coachman's cottage (SY17). The cottage itself appears in the 1817 plans, but by

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<sup>19</sup> RIBA Drawings Collection CoC Add 1/1; HRO E12/W/14.

<sup>20</sup> HRO E12/W/14, p.2.

<sup>21</sup> HRO E12/W/14, p.3.



1837 an additional building had been put up to the north. This contained a privy and three other rooms which, by the beginning of the twentieth century, were used as carpenter's, fitter's and blacksmith's shops.

The 'cottage' had two chimneys in 1837. One is marked rather larger than the other and probably contained two flues one serving the blacksmith's shop. The two chimneys on each end of the western gatehouse were also already in position, but the chimney on the south carriage house was new, put in as part of the work and was built of Broseley bricks. All the chimneys were to be re-pointed with Roman Cement and any damage to be repaired with Broseley bricks and Roman Cement.

#### THE WESTERN GATEHOUSE

The carriage yard is closed on the east side by the range containing the entry to the stable yard, now known as the western gatehouse (SY18). Although, Griffith's plans and a couple of photographs provide all the documentary evidence available for this gatehouse, a useful amount of information can be gleaned from the evidence they contain. The plans, for instance, make it clear that the central feature, the cupola over the carriageway entrance, is secondary to Nash's structure. Neither this feature, nor the central pediment over the stable yard entry are indicated on the plans of the carriage and stable yards and there is no trace of the cupola on Cockerell's sketch. The plans mark, with great care, the places where chimneys project through the roof and the specifications are clear about the necessity to 'flash' both chimneys and gutters. Since no such instructions were issued regarding a cupola and there is no indication of its presence on the plans, it must therefore be assumed that the cupola was inserted at some time after the plans were drawn.

Nevertheless, although the cupola and pediment are missing from the plans, there are certain indications that the pediment, at least, may date from this restoration, or perhaps from Lord Ward's additions the following year. The evidence from a photograph taken early this [i.e. *last*] century, shows that the detail of the pediment was of very similar character to the detail found on the carriage houses and discussed previously (SY 16 & 19).

There is also the matter of an £800 discrepancy between the estimate of £3000 tendered by Griffiths and the bill actually paid. This was a large percentage of the original bill and suggests that additional work of some magnitude was undertaken.<sup>22</sup> Was this the installation of the cupola and the creation of the pediment? Unless or until more pictures of the house, of the correct date and portrayed from a suitable viewpoint, can be found, there is no answer to this question.

#### THE STABLE YARD

The plans for the 1837 refurbishment depict the stable yard in some detail, but they are primarily concerned with the roofs of the buildings and the position of valleys and gutters.<sup>23</sup> Taken together, with the estimate for the work to be carried out, however, they provide further evidence of the state of the building and the work that was to be done (SY20).

As elsewhere, the first job was to remove Nash's composition from all the roofs apart from the passage at the back of the stables, which led from the laundry to the drying

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<sup>22</sup> HRO E12/W10, pp10,18.

<sup>23</sup> HRO E12/W14-17.



green. Here the composition surface was allowed to remain and seems to have been used as a base for a new passage at first-floor height. The original passage was at ground-floor level, providing a route whereby the laundry maids could reach the drying grounds unseen by the stable hands. This old passage was to be arched in 5" brick and the spandrels filled up with concrete made out of the old materials. The inserted and reinforced arches were intended to support the new upper gangway along which the heavy trolleys of wet washing would be moved from the laundry under the servants' hall, via a ramp to the drying yard. The floors of the new gangway were to be re-laid with 'hard common flooring bricks'.<sup>24</sup> Although originally open to the sky, the passage was shielded from the stable yard - and from prying eyes - by the stable walls and roofs.

The new line of the passage is shown, not only on Griffith's 1837 plans, but on the 1838 Plan, and on Lord Ward's map made two years later (SY 12, 13, 20).<sup>25</sup> This 'gangway' remained in use until the 1930s and is mentioned in the Sale Catalogue at first floor level as 'Gangway to drying green'.<sup>26</sup> Both passages can still be seen, although much of the lower one is blocked, and the vaulting with its concrete infill is still in place. The upper passage has had a series of raised vents inserted into the floor at some later date and this must have considerably hampered the laundry maids' movements!

In the later, Dawkes alterations, fireplaces were inserted into the lower passage. In order that the upper walkway should not be obstructed the flues were taken out through the churchyard wall and into the churchyard. Similar arrangements were made when flues were inserted into the buildings of the outer court.<sup>27</sup>

The 1837 plans of the roof line of this side of the stable yard shows no chimneys and suggest that, at this date, the range was merely used as stables and haylofts.

As part of the range on the south side there are four sets of chimney stacks shown. In his report on the archaeology of this range Richard Morriss has identified two of the hearths for these stacks, but the others appear to have been demolished.<sup>28</sup> It is possible that the others served first floor rooms, the 'rooms over the Stables' described in the estimate. These rooms were not just lofts but were provided with plaster ceilings, which Griffiths was required to reinstate if they were damaged during the work on the roof above.<sup>29</sup>

The passage, which led to these rooms, was originally lit by skylights. As part of the repair work these were taken out and replaced with 'three small windows with 2-inch fixed sashes glazed with ground glass to be applied in the side wall'.<sup>30</sup> The windows were to have stone heads and sills. To discover the site of these windows it is necessary to look for a blank wall where the insertion of windows filled with clear glass would compromise the privacy of the family - one such possibility is in the south stable range where any window in the south wall would, in the 1830s, before the Dawkes remodelling and the building, of the conservatory, overlook the garden. There are three narrow windows still visible in the south wall of the stable range. Morriss describes them as, 'inserted' and says they 'either pre-date or are contemporary with, the

<sup>24</sup> HRO E12/W14, p.5.

<sup>25</sup> Tithe map of Great Witley WRO s760/289 BA1572.

<sup>26</sup> Sale catalogue 1938, p.16.

<sup>27</sup> WRO 850 Gt. Witley BA 7667/5.

<sup>28</sup> 'Witley Court, An interim Report on the Stables and Western Gatehouse', (January 1995, Hereford Archaeology Series 269), hereafter H.A.S. 296, Section §3.1.02.

<sup>29</sup> HRO E12/W14, p.6.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

stucco'.<sup>31</sup> If this is so, it is possible that the projection in the wall, commented on by Morriss as something of an oddity, was intended to accommodate the passage (SY22).

The entrances to the stables do not appear on the 1837 plans and there is no mention of them in the estimate. Cockerell's plan marks two doorways on each side and shows them placed symmetrically in the facade. Present archaeological evidence suggests that there were indeed two main opening in the south wall of the north range, although these were sited further east than indicated by Cockerell, and that these openings led into a lobby-like space, similar to that shown in his drawing (SY 23). The south stabling, however, does not conform to this plan although the entrances seem to be original to the building.<sup>32</sup> It has already been shown that Cockerell was short of time when he came to draw the out-buildings and he may well have completed his plan from memory.

No early pictorial evidence survives for this part of the stable yard and the photographs so far discovered date from the early 20th century. They show square-headed doorways on this side of the yard, as against the arched openings on the north side. Twentieth century photographs are also the only evidence for the fenestration of these buildings, since the front walls of both ranges were demolished in the 1940s. Some of these have been reproduced in this report, not for their quality, since the focus is often poor, but because they are the only records available (SY 24 - 27 and 28). In these photographs the upper windows mostly appear as small square sashes, but there are two oval windows shown on the south side and one on the north side of the stable yard nearest the eastern gatehouse (SY 28). Part of one of these windows survives.<sup>33</sup> The lower windows were rectangular, with a hinged upper section. These presumably replaced earlier traditional sash windows.

#### THE EASTERN GATEHOUSE

The eastern gatehouse closed the east end of the stable yard; at its south end it appears to have been an integral part of the south stable range, with the upper room at the south end apparently continuing over the stable range without any partition. This room had a hearth and the chimney that served it emerged through the slope of the stable range roof. On the north side, however, the gatehouse butted up against the earlier range of laundry and servants' quarters, a fact demonstrated very clearly by the 1837 plans.<sup>34</sup> The chimney on this side also encroached on the adjacent range.

#### THE KITCHEN COURT

It has already been indicated that part of this court predated the Nash remodelling by some years, and that the kitchen itself may well have been built by the second Lord Foley, some time before his death in 1766. It is not yet known whether the adjacent range, against the churchyard wall is contemporary with the kitchen, or whether it is a later addition. It was certainly in place by 1793, when it is shown on the 1793 map of that date. A closer examination of the party wall between the buildings may determine the correct sequence.

Whatever the exact date of the kitchen and the adjacent range, by the beginning of the nineteenth century they had both been in existence long enough to need substantial

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<sup>31</sup> H.A.S. 296 Section §3.1.01.

<sup>32</sup> RIBA CoC Add 1/1.

<sup>33</sup> H.A.S. 296 Section §3.1.01.

<sup>34</sup> HRO EI2/WI6.

repair and refitting. The 1801 accounts imply that the servants' hall was in this area and that repairs were needed on the slate roof, a fact that suggests that the building had been constructed some time before.<sup>35</sup> A similar argument can be applied to the work on the kitchen, where the ovens required 'an Ovens Mouth Frame and Door' costing £3 1s 3d, while £14 5s was spent on 'Furnaces Stove Plates etc'. These last were probably the charcoal fired hot plates still on display at such places as Hardwick House and the entry represents the modernisation of the old kitchen in preparation for Lord Foley's coming of age festivities.

The remodelling of the area c.1810, as part of the plans for the new stable yards, saw the addition of the eastern gatehouse. This, together with a series of storage buildings on the south side, completed the courtyard. The rooms on the north side seem to have retained their original function when they were incorporated into the new design, and were only replaced in the 1850s, when Dawkes remodelled the interior of the house. Cockerell's plans, made soon after the refurbishment was complete (SY 11), indicate that the servants' hall was in the north west corner of the first floor, next to the gate house, and adjoined the housekeeper's and steward's rooms.<sup>36</sup>

It seems that the function of other rooms in the range also persisted, and for longer. It is likely, for instance, that the laundry, known to have occupied the north west ground floor rooms in the latter part of the nineteenth century, had always stood on that spot (i.e. under the servants' hall) since one of the large cisterns shown in Griffith's 1837 plans is sited immediately above this corner (SY 30). Another cistern was placed at roof level at the opposite end of the range and supplied the kitchen. Pipes, which must at one time have been connected to the cistern, can be seen in the wall above the kitchen range.

It is not at all clear whether the colonnade which formed such a feature of the north side of the courtyard in the later part of the nineteenth century, was part of Nash's building or a later addition. Griffiths' plans indicate that the roof of north range of the kitchen court covered the area which later included the colonnade, but there is nothing in the plans to confirm or deny the presence of a walkway and arcading at ground floor level. It may, however be significant that the colonnade on the south side of the court, which is certainly a later introduction, was built of plastered brick, rather than the dressed stone of the northern arcading. Whether or not the colonnade was part of Nash's design it is clear that the first floor rooms took up the full width of the building and continued over the arcading (SY 32 & 33).

The north range seems to have been of more than two storeys. The present back wall - all that is left of the building - continues up beyond the first floor, without any apparent break in the brickwork. Floor beams protrude from the wall at second floor level, indicating upper rooms or attics (SY 31). The height of the building is confirmed by the watercolour by J.Woods, c.1843 (SY 34), which clearly shows the roof above the lower walls of the fuel stores on the south of the courtyard.<sup>37</sup> Two tall stacks of chimneys, with a lantern between them, rise from this roof and the kitchen roof can be seen on the right. Of all the service yards, this kitchen court changed the most over the nineteenth century. After Samuel Dawkes had redesigned the house, only the gatehouse retained its original appearance. The south and east sides were swept away to make room for the Quadrant, which intruded into the space. It should be noted that the front (south-east) wall of the Quadrant conformed to a semicircular feature of some sort which can be traced on the 1793, 1822 and 1838 plans (SY 5, 11 & 13).

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<sup>35</sup> HRO E12/iii/185.

<sup>36</sup> RIBA CoC Add 1/1.

<sup>37</sup> J. Woods, 'Witley Court from the south east', Dudley Art Gallery.

The north side was also modified. One end continued as the laundry, with, according to later evidence, ironing rooms above. The other end had links with the kitchen. As has been noted, the first floor continued above the colonnade, but the front wall of the attic floor was stepped back almost half the width of the building and then became a tall, narrow structure rising above the first floor roof. This attic floor, however was definitely a later innovation. Griffith shows a continuous roof line for the range (SY 21).

A poor quality aerial photograph, (SY335) taken at the time of the 1937 fire, is the best evidence available for this stage of the building, while the description in the 1938 sale catalogue, of the accommodation on the first and second floors, provides additional confirmation. It would appear that the upper windows represent the large loft - the shallow roof space could hardly be so described - and that the six-roomed flat, two ironing rooms, four bedrooms and W.C. occupied the first floor. The 'Gangway to drying green' has already been discussed.<sup>38</sup>

The colonnade on the north side of the courtyard was paralleled by another on the south, which masked the labyrinth of rooms behind Dawkes' conservatory (SY 32 & 33). The servants' hall and steward's room moved into the basement of the Quadrant, while the housekeeper had her sitting room in the main house.<sup>39</sup>

It is unfortunate that no good pictures survive of the kitchen court; of the four courtyards it was the most pretentious, probably because it was visible from the chamber floors of the house. The two colonnades, with their arches and square pillars, linked with the outer corridor of the Quadrant. The facade of the Quadrant was treated in the same style as the colonnades with round headed windows and moulded string-courses to match the arches and capitals of the arcading in the court. The windows were protected with ornamental iron grills and the various doors into the passage were surmounted with wrought-iron door heads. The photograph of the staff, (SY 36), is posed against this passage. The round-headed window can be seen through the gateway on (SY 37). A modern photograph shows as far as possible, the comparative position (SY 38). The front wall of the Quadrant passage has been demolished.

#### THE BACK KITCHEN YARD

The final area to be investigated is the small yard between the kitchen and the Link Block. It would appear that this was created to provide access to the west side of the court when the church was built, as its west wall is part of the platform on which the church is sited. When the Link Block was constructed across the mouth of this entrance, it included a gateway at ground floor level so that the west side of the house was still accessible.

From the evidence of the early plans (SY 5, 9 and 10) it would appear that the yard remained open and without encroachments of any kind until the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The tithe map, however, (SY12), show that between 1837 and 1838 part of the area beyond the kitchen had been covered in, with an open courtyard left next to the Link Block. In the centre of this courtyard stood a circular feature that has, so far, defied explanation. The same feature is marked on the 1842 map, but in this case the whole of the yard is left unshaded, apparently indicating an open space. It is possible that this is an oversight on the part of the surveyor; alternatively, this part of

<sup>38</sup> *Berrow's Worcester Journal* copy from the collection of P.R.S. Johnson; 1938 Sale catalogue.

<sup>39</sup> Basement plan of Witley Court, Dudley Archives and Local History Service, C489.



the yard may have been glassed over. It should be noted that this covered area is not the later scullery, which did not extend so far north.

The later history of this yard and its buildings has been gleaned from two basement plans of the drains at Witley Court. The first plan of these is dated 5.9.[18]88 and was drawn by J.R. Shopland, Civil Engineer of Swindon (SY 39). A second drains plan was produced in the 1890s, but is only known from a copy made in 1974 and now in the hands of English Heritage.<sup>40</sup> This second plan, by H. Bishop, is not as detailed as the 1888 version, but otherwise provides essentially the same information.

By 1888, when the first of these plans was produced, the yard held two larders and another storeroom on the side nearest the house.<sup>41</sup> There was a large scullery alongside the kitchen, with a cistern in the corner nearest the kitchen boiler and a sink under the window looking north. A window from the kitchen looked directly into the scullery, indicating that the scullery was a secondary feature built against the outer wall of the original kitchen. A plucking room was built against the churchyard wall and a lean-to building next to the Link Block was used as a game larder. The names assigned to these rooms are mostly of a later date, but the position of the drains dates from 1888 and suggests that there was no dramatic change of use over the years. By 1937 another store had been built between the plucking room and game larder. These last names are used on a plan drawn in 1956 to establish church boundaries, then in dispute, with the owner of Witley Court, Mr. Wiggington (SY 40).<sup>42</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The foregoing discussion has demonstrated that the service yards at Witley, although superficially forming an integrated unit, and popularly attributed to John Nash, are actually the result of considerable modifications over the last two centuries. Some of these changes are obvious. The impact of Dawkes' remodelling on the kitchen court cannot be missed, although, even here there are areas of ambiguity, where the sequence of structures is not clear.

The area which has been described as the outer court, owes its present existence, not so much to Nash, as to Lord Ward's builder, and then to Dawkes. Even the coach yard and stable yards, which retain the most indications of their early history, and are most reminiscent of John Nash's design, have been modified by Griffith's alterations to the roof structure and by his gables and pediments.

It can be seen therefore that the service courts are an altogether more complicated and less cohesive construction than has hitherto appeared and that a lot more needs to be done to complete our understanding of the area.



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<sup>40</sup> English Heritage, Keystone House, Oxford Street, London, 872/AS 1/8 [Now at Swindon]

<sup>41</sup> Basement plan of Witley Court, Dudley Archives and Local History Service C489

<sup>42</sup> WRO 850 Gt. Witley BA 7667/5.



## *Appendix C*

### WITLEY COURT

Excavations in the Churchyard and  
Kitchen Court 2001, 2002

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

March 2004

# WITLEY COURT

## Excavations in the Churchyard and Kitchen Court 2001, 2002

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## WITLEY COURT

### Excavations in the Churchyard and Kitchen Court 2001, 2002

#### *Summary*

##### ***The Churchyard***

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation at Church of St Michael and All Angels, Great Witley, Worcestershire Witley (NGR SO 747 648) on behalf of English Heritage. Three test pits were excavated at junctions and kinks in the internal face of the retaining walls to the churchyard. The evaluation revealed a drainage gully, widening of the retaining wall, 3 courses of a perpendicular brick built wall and a brick built flue. All test pits contained a series of rubble make up material.*

##### ***The Kitchen Court***

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out limited excavation and clearance in the laundry block of, Witley Court, Worcestershire on behalf of English Heritage. The excavations were in two areas along the northern edge of the laundry area and adjacent to the retaining wall of the churchyard. During the excavations a possible cellar, a sub basement and a number of other features were revealed, these have added much valuable information on the sub surface remains in this area of the monument.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1.1 In August 2001 OAU carried out a field evaluation at Church of St Michael and All Angels, Great Witley, (NGR SO 747 648) on behalf of English Heritage. Small-scale excavations were also carried out in interior of the former laundry (now ruinous) in the Kitchen Court. This report is divided into two main (self-contained) sections the first of which details the churchyard excavations and the second excavations in the Kitchen Court.

## **1.2 LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORK**

- 1.2.1 The evaluation was agreed at a site meeting on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2001 by Tony Fleming (English Heritage West Midlands Inspector of Monuments) and Nick Hill (English Heritage Project Manager). The evaluation was in conjunction with the Service Courtyard Building Recording Project, in respect of a long-term consolidation project.
- 1.2.2 The evaluation exposed sections of the internal retaining walls of the churchyard which are an integral part of the buildings in the service court of Witley Court. Due to the archaeologically sensitive location the pits were excavated under archaeological conditions. The site is situated at NGR 767 648 (Fig 1).

## **1.3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 1.3.1 The Church of St Michael and All Angels lies on sandstone scarp at c 93 m OD. The site is situated on high ground to the west of the ruins of Witley Court. The surrounding area is open farmland and woodland.

**1.4 THE CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 1.4.1 The Church of St Michael and All Angels is the Parish Church for the villages of Great Witley and Little Witley. The church is located next to Witley Court and their histories are closely linked.
- 1.4.2 A thirteenth-century church stood close to the present site. The exact location of the old church is unknown but it is thought, by looking at old pictures, to be located to the west of the Church of St Michael. The present church of St Michael was consecrated in 1735, replacing the thirteenth century church, which was petitioned to be demolished by Lady Foley. The architect, James Gibbs, designed a brick faced edifice to match the exterior of Witley Court at that time.
- 1.4.3 By 1805 the third Lord Foley moved the stables from the front of Witley Court to their present position adjacent to the churchyard. In 1861 the exterior of the church was faced with Bath stone under the direction of the architect Samuel Daukes to match additions at Witley Court. The first Earl of Dudley commissioned the work.
- 1.4.4 A fire in 1937 destroyed much of Witley Court. St Michael's Church was not affected but fell into disrepair after Witley Court was abandoned. In 1965 concerned parishioners started an extensive restoration project to save the Parish Church. In 1972 the Department of the Environment undertook the guardianship of Witley Court and grounds and it is now in the care of English Heritage.

**1.5 EVALUATION AIMS**

- 1.5.1 The aim of the evaluation was to expose the internal face of the churchyard retaining wall for inspection by the project engineers. However, possibility of burials required that the test pits were excavated as an archaeological exercise.

**1.6 SCOPE OF FIELDWORK**

- 1.6.1 Three test pits were proposed located at junctions and kinks on the internal face of the retaining wall within the churchyard. The evaluation consisted of excavating three test pits measuring 1m<sup>2</sup> in plan (Fig 01) to a maximum depth of 1.2 m to expose the internal face of the churchyard retaining wall for inspection by the project engineers.

**1.7 FIELDWORK METHODS AND RECORDING**

- 1.7.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. Each test pit and section was drawn at a scale of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the OAU Fieldwork Manual (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

**1.8 FINDS**

- 1.8.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

**1.9 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS**

- 1.9.1 Each test pit is described in detail, followed by reports on the finds and lastly an interpretation of the findings from the investigation.

**1.10 SOILS AND GROUND CONDITIONS**

- 1.10.1 The site is located on sandstone bedrock with an overlying sequence of rubble make up material. The churchyard soil was a sandy loam. The ground conditions were good during the investigative works and the weather conditions were fine and dry with occasional rain.
- 1.10.2 *Distribution of archaeological deposits:* Archaeological deposits and features were located within all the test pits.

**2 DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITS****2.1 TEST PIT 1 (FIG 3)**

- 2.1.1 Test Pit 1 was located against the southern retaining wall. It was originally to be placed at a junction in the wall 32.6 m west from the south east corner of the churchyard. Due to the presence of a small tree the proposed location was moved slightly west to 33.6 m along the wall. The test pit measured 1m<sup>2</sup> in plan and reached a depth of 0.96m.
- 2.1.2 The exposed wall (106) was aligned east west and constructed in an English garden bond. The bricks used were dark red and measured 0.24m x 0.1m x 0.06m bonded with a hard sandy mortar. The face of the wall was vertical and straight.
- 2.1.3 At the base of the test pit were two rows of slate slabs (104) aligned east west. The slabs measured at least 0.6 m long x 0.5m x 0.18m and were laid at a c 30° angle from the horizontal forming a shallow 'v' shape sealed together with a green sand based 'putty'. The resulting gap was capped with one course of horizontally laid bricks, dimensions 0.24m x 0.1m x 0.06m(103). This has been interpreted as an east west aligned drainage gully running water to the west.
- 2.1.4 A layer of mid brownish orange clayey silt (102) that measured c 0.4 m thick overlay the drainage gully. This layer had a 40 % brick and tile rubble content and contained 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. A metal service pipe, 0.08m in diameter, aligned east west was observed towards the base of this layer. No construction cut for the pipe was visible. A layer of dark grayish brown silty sand (102) that measured 0.4m thick overlay layer 102. This layer had a substantial 50% brick and rubble content and also contained 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. These rubble make up layers were sealed by light brown sandy loam that measured 0.18m thick, the current churchyard topsoil (100).

**2.2 TEST PIT 2 (FIG 4)**

- 2.2.1 Test pit 2 was located 8.8 m west from the southeast corner of the churchyard against the southern retaining wall. The test pit measured 1m<sup>2</sup> in plan and had a maximum depth of 1.2m
- 2.2.2 The exposed wall (207) was aligned east-west and was constructed with dark red bricks bonded with a sandy mortar. The bricks appeared to be laid at random. The wall widened by 0.2 m at 92.31 OD and 0.08 m at 91.95 OD. Three courses of a perpendicular wall, starting at 92.02 OD were visible in the east facing section of the test pit. This wall was keyed in to the main east-west aligned wall.
- 2.2.3 At the base of the test pit was the top of a structure made from brick and concrete (208). It comprised of four bricks (0.24 m x 0.11 m x 0.07 m) forming a hollow



square bonded with a large quantity of concrete. The concrete also bonded this structure to wall 207. The function of this structure was unknown.

- 2.2.4 The earliest deposit in the test pit was a mid orangey brown clayey silt (203) measuring at least 0.7 m thick. This layer contained some brick and tile rubble (2%), occasional charcoal flecks, and one disarticulated fragment of human bone, presumably from a previously disturbed burial. This layer was cut by a service trench for a metal water pipe (205).
- 2.2.5 Parallel to the service trench and on top of layer 203 was a single row of bricks one course high (202). The bricks measured 0.26m x 0.12m x 0.07m and were bonded with a hard sandy mortar. The function of this structure was unknown.
- 2.2.6 A levelling layer of mid orange brown clayey loam that measured 0.32m thick overlay bricks 202. This layer contained frequent brick and slate rubble and occasional charcoal flecks. Sealing the test pit was 0.2m of topsoil.

### 2.3 TEST PIT 3 (FIG 5)

- 2.3.1 Test pit 3 was located 14m south from the south east corner of St Michael's church against a kink on the west face of the east retaining wall. The test pit measured 1m<sup>2</sup> in plan.
- 2.3.2 The exposed wall (306) was constructed with dark red bricks that measured 0.24m x 0.1m x 0.06m bonded with a hard sandy mortar. At 93.03 OD at the point of the kink in the wall a brick built flue aligned NNE - SSW was exposed.
- 2.3.3 Deposit 304 was the earliest deposit exposed in test pit 3. It consisted of a friable mid brown orange clay measuring at least 0.3 m thick. This deposit had a low volume, 2%, of brick and tile rubble inclusions and contain 2 human cranium fragments. A metal service pipe 305 was exposed within this deposit.
- 2.3.4 A friable mid orange brown clayey loam (303) measuring 0.3m thick overlay 304. This deposit also contained a low volume of brick and tile rubble. Deposit 302 overlay deposit 303. This consisted of a friable dark grey black sandy loam with large quantities of brick, tile, mortar and slate fragments. The deposit had been mixed with soot which gave the soil its black colour.
- 2.3.9 Sealing the test pit was a compact gravel layer within a light yellow brown sandy matrix measuring 0.2m thick. This was overlain by 0.05m of loose gravels.

### 2.4 FINDS

#### 2.4.1 Pottery

- 2.4.2 The pottery recovered from the levelling deposits in all three of the test pits was white and blue and white glaze with a willow pattern probably dating from the late 19th or early 20th century. Several sherds of flower pot were also recovered .

#### 2.4.3 Other finds

- 2.4.4 Other finds included broken bottle and window glass, animal bones, iron sheet, iron nails, iron rod and a piece of lead strip. These were all recovered from the levelling deposits. Three fragments of human bone were found in the earliest levelling deposit (203 and 304).

**3 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

- 3.1.1 The retaining wall around the courtyard was exposed in all of the test pits. In test pit 1 the exposed section of wall showed no differences in build or size to the standing wall. Test pit 2 revealed a 0.2m widening of the wall at 92.31m OD and three courses of perpendicular wall, probably the top of a buttress, starting at 92.02 OD. Test pit 3 exposed the top of a flue at 93.03 OD starting at the kink in the wall and running in a SSW direction.
- 3.1.2 Within all the test pits were a series of levelling deposits containing varying amounts of masons waste. The earliest of these deposits (203 and 304) contained a few fragments of disarticulated human bone, presumably from a grave disturbed during the construction of the retaining wall.

**3.2 OVERALL INTERPRETATION****3.2.1 Summary of results**

- 3.2.2 The evaluation revealed a drainage gully, widening of the retaining wall, 3 courses of a perpendicular brick built wall and a brick built flue. All test pits contained a series of rubble make up material.

**Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory**

Test pit	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick . (m)	Comment	Finds	No./ wt	Date
001								
	100	Layer		0.18	Topsoil	Iron strip Glass	1 1	
	101	Layer		0.4	Leveling layer	Pottery	22/68g	19th/20th century
	102	Layer		0.4	Leveling layer	Pottery	1/24g	19th/20th century
	103	Structure	0.24	0.1	Bricks covering drain			
	104	Structure	0.5+	0.18	Slate slabs			
	105	Structure	0.08	0.08	Iron pipe			
	106	Structure			Southern retaining wall			
002								
	200	Layer		0.2	Topsoil	Iron nail Glass Pottery	2 4/97g 6/172g	19th/20th century
	201	Layer		0.22	Leveling layer	Lead strip Animal bone Glass Plaster	2 2/32g 1/3g 3/14g	
	202	Structure	1	0.07	One row of bricks			
	203	Layer		0.01+	Clay deposit	Animal bone	1/32g	
	204	Layer		0.7	Clay deposit			
	205	Cut	0.4	?	Cut for pipe			
	206	Fill	0.4	?	Fill of cut 205	Iron nail Glass	2 1/8g	
	207	Structure			Southern retaining wall			
	208	Structure	0.38	0.43+	Square brick feature			
003								
	300	Layer		0.05	Loose gravel's			
	301	Layer		0.15	Compact gravel's			
	302	Layer		0.45	Leveling layer	Iron sheet	1	19th/20th

						Glass Pottery	1/37g 5/260g	century
	303	Layer		0.3	Leveling layer	Iron nail Iron rod	2 1	
	304	Layer		0.3+	Clay deposit			
	305	Structure		0.08	Lead pipe			
	306	Structure			Eastern retaining wall			

## 4 EXCAVATIONS IN THE KITCHEN COURT

### 4.1 LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORK

4.1.1 In August 2001 as part of recording activity during repair work in the service court at Witley Court, Great Witley, Worcestershire (NGR: SO 769 648 (Fig 1); SAM 306) on behalf of English Heritage the OAU was asked to carry out limited clearance and excavation work to reveal the nature of a number of visible sub surface features to the south of the housekeepers room (Trench 1)

4.1.2 In November 2001, OA carried out an investigation within the Laundry Block some 15m west of Trench 1. The evaluation was undertaken to locate secure footing for repair works being undertaken on the churchyard retaining wall and laundry maids tunnel (Trench 2). This trench was partially extended during August 2002 in advance of the construction of drainage systems for the restored churchyard wall.

4.1.3 OA would like to thank all the staff at Witley Court for their help during the archaeological works and to Tony Fleming (English Heritage West Midlands), Sally Mills John Westwood, Paul Rice and Richard Powell, Vic and Tim (Capps and Capps).

### 4.2 AIMS

#### 4.2.1 *Trench 1*

4.2.2 The purpose of Trench 1 was to establish the extent and nature of an area of filled subterranean brick and stone features, which were partially visible. The aim was to locate firm and solid bases for scaffolding and to provide the English Heritage engineers with information on the structure of the wall.

#### 4.2.3 *Trench 2*

4.2.4 Investigation into the area at the east end of the east-west passage running from the laundry to the Drying Green. The purpose of this investigation was to find a secure footing for rebuilding the partially collapsed arch at the end of this passage and to provide information for the architects, builders, engineers as well as archaeologists. This trench was extended in 2002

### 4.3 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.3.1 *Scope of fieldwork*

4.3.2 The work undertaken at Witley Court parterre gardens consisted of an investigation trench, which was extended, as work progressed to allow a full as an examination of the foundations as possible. The shape of the trench was largely dictated by the mass of scaffolding in the area, which severely restricted the surface area available for excavation as well as precluding the full excavation of a number of deep feature.

- 4.3.3 *Fieldwork methods and recording*
- 4.3.4 The trenches were cleaned by hand mostly by Caps and Caps (the contractors) staff under OA supervision, the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).
- 4.3.5 *Finds*
- 4.3.6 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and generally bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.
- 4.3.7 *Presentation of results*
- 4.3.8 The results are described by trench dealing firstly with the different deposits and structures encountered followed by a discussion as to their nature and relationships.
- 4.3.9 *Soils and ground conditions*
- 4.3.10 The site is located on sandstone bedrock with an overlying sequence of dumped deposits and wall collapse and a number of structures. The ground conditions were good during the investigative works and the weather conditions were fine and dry for Trench 1 whilst during excavation of Trench 2 they were often poor and wet.

## 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

### 5.1 TRENCH 1

- 5.1.1 The activity in this area was a probing exercise aimed at establishing the nature and extent of structures beneath the ground surface. The excavation was strictly limited in its scope and no attempt was made to clear the deposits, which filled the structures, any such clearance would require a far larger excavation.
- 5.1.2 A dense topsoil made up of loamy earth and matted with a thick layer of ivy roots and vegetation made up the uppermost layer of deposits. The main structures present consisted of a central square feature flanked by the foundations of the north-south walls of a now vanished two storey building. On both the east and west sides lay smaller structures. The main central structure was a large open pit roofed with large stone slabs, these slabs rested in turn on a very loose and fine pink mortar base (which in places was so decayed that it had the consistency of sand). Supporting this roof was a row of narrow iron girders. The underground structure was a brick lined chamber almost entirely filled with debris, voids beneath its roof showed that this void went as far back as the churchyard retaining wall itself. The very fragile nature of the stone roof (which in places was held together by vegetation alone) meant that it was only cleared in a small sample area.
- 5.1.3 To the east of this large central feature lay a narrow conduit or flue which ran from east-west (this was not cleared during excavation) and may have once held a water or drain pipe. To the west a small block of stone with a void beneath was partially visible although it was covered in soil and debris. This block of stone has a chamfered edge which gives the appearance of being some form of lintel. A partially filled void lay behind this object and was connected with the void in the large central feature.
- 5.1.4 *Finds*
- 5.1.5 The excavation revealed few finds the much damaged brass surround to an oil lamp mantle and a number of nails were the only finds.

## 5.2 TRENCH 2

- 5.2.1 Bedrock was located at the base of the sub basement this was weathered sandstone and was overlain by a thin mortar floor surface. Three walls of the sub basement were revealed these included the south wall the east pier and the west wall (the tunnel).
- 5.2.2 Overlying the bedrock deposit was the sub circular base of a furnace, or copper made of firebricks (see Fig 6) set in a hard white mortar and built on a bed of slates. This structure had a lining of hard grey ceramic and was filled with a layer of grey ash. To the south of the structure lay an area of mixed coal/ash/slag presumably the fuel and by-products of the boiler. Above this lay a massive deposit of fallen bricks and fine sand which was almost certainly the product of successive collapses of the vault above. Above this was layer of topsoil heavily interwoven with ivy root systems.
- 5.2.3 To the east of the sub-basement an area of floors and brickwork was revealed some 20cm below the ground surface. This represented the remains of a brick pier and a quarry tile floor. At the eastern edge of the trench a curving brick feature lay beneath the surface its south wall was on the same alignment as the south wall of the sub basement and it had openings running to the north and west it was not fully excavated but was a least 1.5m in depth.
- 5.2.4 The western opening led to a drain built into the thickness of the wall and filled with heavy black matter, this in turn was connected to another drain running north south through the wall. The curving feature is overlain by the small surviving fragment of quarry tile wall and is most likely to be a soak-away beneath the washhouse flooring
- 5.2.5 The 2002 excavation Figs 7-8 was necessitated by the insertion of a soak away in a shallow trench crossing the 2001 site and extending 1 meter to the south. Again more buried wall s and structures were revealed although as only a small area was cleared assessing their exact nature is problematic. The features are again terraced into the soft bedrock and form a number of subbasements and flues. A large flue with partially rendered surface and accessed by a sootbox with iron door was the largest feature, this was contemporary with the previously excavated boiler base.
- 5.2.6 *Finds*
- 5.2.7 Trench 2 produced a number of finds in the dark upper topsoil a number of broken jars, rubber seals and lids were found these have lids identical to those used during World War Two and must be associated with the wartime canning factory which was located in the adjacent building.
- 5.2.8 In the dense layer of brick collapse which fills the sub basement further jars were located together with a fragment of ceramic chimney pot and a broken stone chimney cap.
- 5.2.9 Metal work found in this layer included iron pipes a brass electric light fitting a few fragments of iron plate and a number of nails. A single small mother of pearl button was found in the debris near the copper/boiler.
- 5.2.10 All the finds from this trench are relatively recent in origin and many may be related to the later phases of activity at Witley Court and some was almost certainly dumped here during demolition work.



## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 TRENCH 1

- 6.1.1 Despite the limited scope of the clearance work in this trench a number of good results were obtained. Prior to excavation it had been widely assumed that the visible features which appeared, as fragments of wall, humps, bumps and voids were most likely associated with Witley Court's elaborate hot air heating system or with drainage. The small flue like structure to the east of the area may indeed be such a structure although its relationship to either the heating or drainage systems is unclear.
- 6.1.2 It became apparent during clearance that the larger area was more substantial and deeper than at first expected. This structure is a brick area roofed with girders (a sawn off set of earlier girders indicates at least two phases of roofing) topped by a thick bed of mortar and further topped with stone slabs. The brickwork inside was rendered along the southern and eastern walls. The chamber was filled with a massive amount of builders rubble and concrete but despite this it was possible to ascertain from the voids and probing that it was at least 1m deep in places. Another void indicated that this structure was not an isolated chamber but was connected to the lintel that was visible some 2m to the west.
- 6.1.3 The presence of the possible lintel to the west of the central feature and the void behind it may indicate that this was not a heating duct but rather was a full height cellar complex of unknown extent.
- 6.1.4 There may also have been a passage running from east to west along the base of the wall (see Trench 2 below).

### 6.2 TRENCH 2

- 6.2.1 This trench has presented a number of problems of interpretation owing to the limited extent of excavation. The initial purpose of the excavation was to establish the nature of the footings of the ruined end of the vaulted tunnel to allow reconstruction. The springer of an arch low down on the vault and the re-lining of the main vault and this arch (they are made up of larger bricks than the bulk of the fabric of the tunnel) indicated that there was a subterranean structure in this area and a footing could be built from this.
- 6.2.2 During excavation it became clear that the construction was somewhat more complex than anticipated. A sub basement was revealed beneath the present ground level this projected slightly to the south of the main vault and must have been spanned by its own north-south vault. The basement ran right down to the bedrock on which lay the well preserved sub-circular base of a boiler or copper. The basement was accessed from an (unexcavated) area adjacent to the north wall.
- 6.2.3 Further limited excavation was required to locate the pier upon which the arch spanning the basement stood. A mass of brickwork was revealed to the east as well as a quarry tiled floor overlying a drain system or soak-away. Unfortunately the upper parts of the structure were entirely absent; the wall also appeared rather slight when one considered the mass of brickwork it was required to support. The also contained several substantial drains within their thickness this must have again weakened the structure.

- 6.2.4 The comparative slightness of the structure may be partially explained by the hypothesis that the buildings in this area were mutually supportive and that as additions were made during successive stages of remodelling (weight from earlier builds was redistributed onto now vanished walls). The surviving main vault shows at least two phases of addition and alteration. The radius of the vaulting indicates that it was formerly somewhat wider and has been relined and narrowed at some point (this may be when the subbasement and its vault was constructed). Springers for a higher arch survive on the north wall and may represent a strengthening or extension of the vault.
- 6.2.5 Low on the north wall other brick springers indicate the position of another far narrower north-south arch. Probing in the ground beneath this arch indicates that these may have been a sub-basement corridor here, which ran along the north wall and gave accesses to the excavated sub basement. There is no indication on the north wall above the springer that it was set into a north-south wall and it may have formed a bridge like stretcher over the corridor (these can be found in the main vaulted passage to the west). This form of arch may suggest it was added to give stability to the main vault. The arch would have lain slightly to the east of the tunnel and there would have been a gap between them. The thickness of the brick pier to the east of the sub-basement also suggests that this was strengthened at some point perhaps to reinforce the arch and vault.

### 6.3 SIGNIFICANCE

- 6.3.1 The very limited excavations within the service courtyard have been very useful in establishing at least some of the nature of the below ground deposits. The area beneath the laundry has been shown to be far more complex than at first suspected and there is a substantial complex of semi-underground features, which form a significant element of these buildings. Without further excavation our understanding of this area will always be limited and despite our (very detailed) knowledge of the rear (north) wall of the buildings we will have little knowledge of the rest of the buildings and their underground features.
- 6.3.2 The excavation has revealed that there were a number of processes going on within this area that previously we had very little evidence for. During the recording phase of the work a number of flues were noted in the north wall. There was speculation that these flues were associated with the hot air heating system seen in the main house. Excavation has revealed that at least some of these flues are associated with boilers or similar features below ground level.

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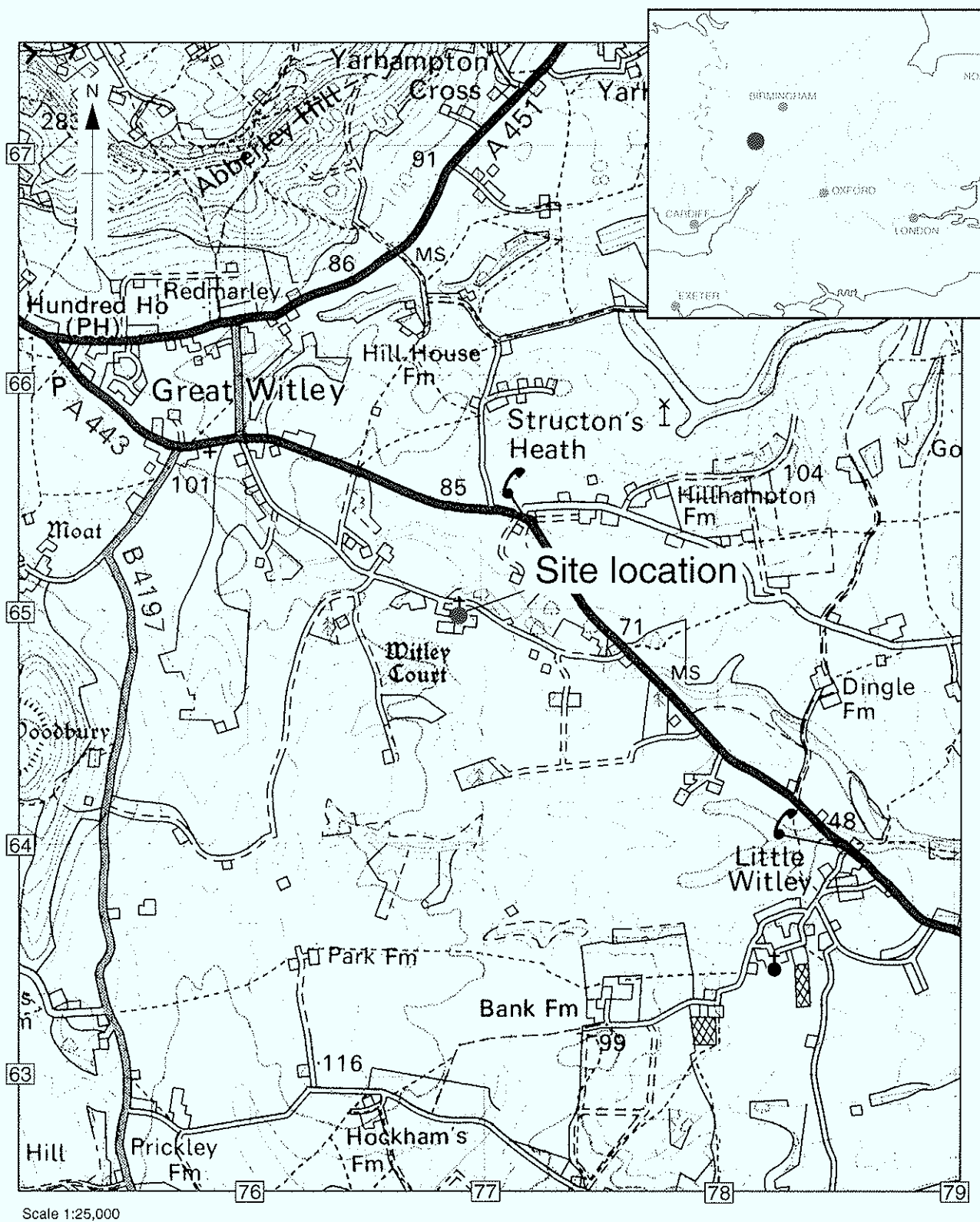
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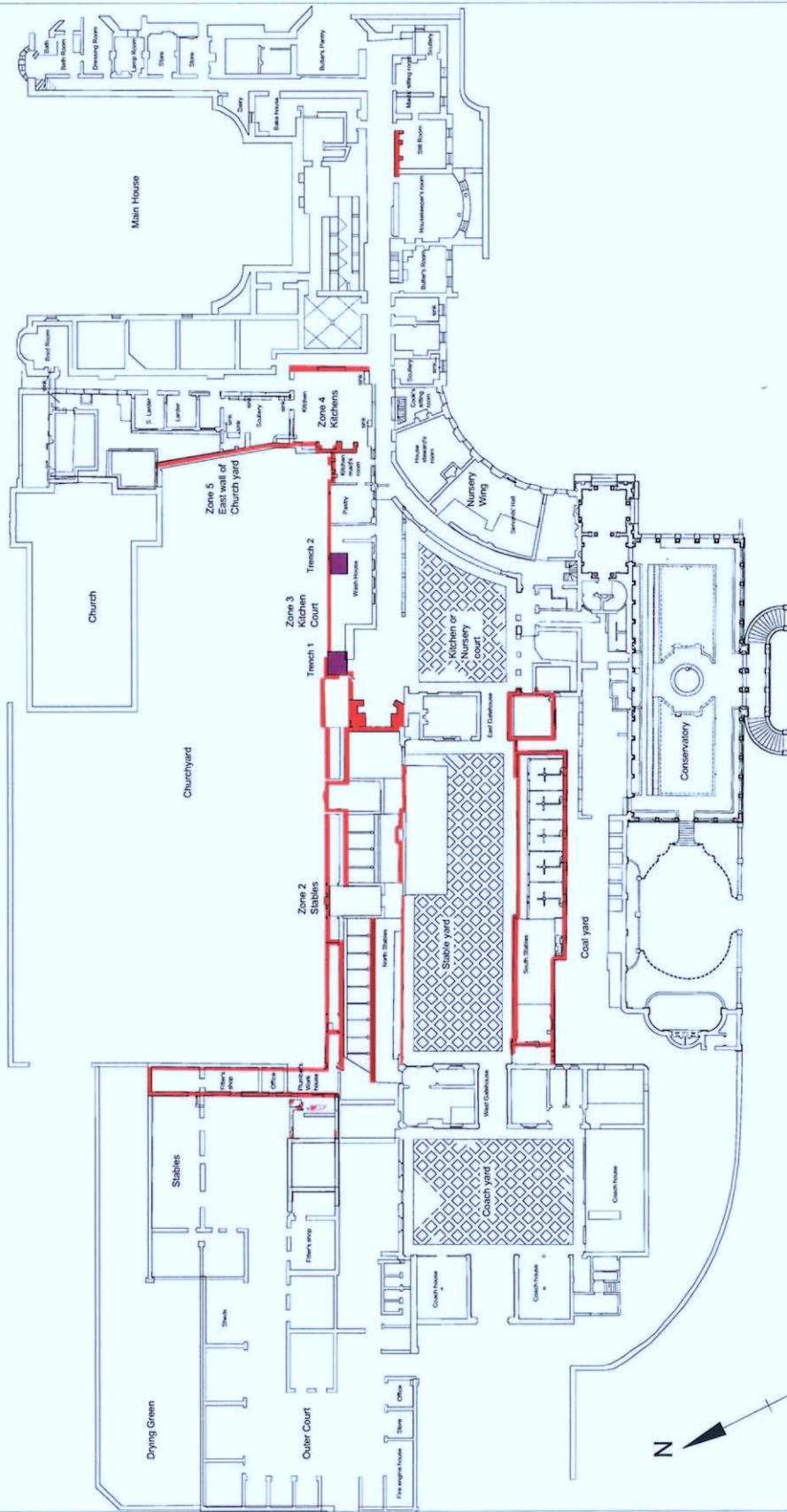


Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location





**Key**

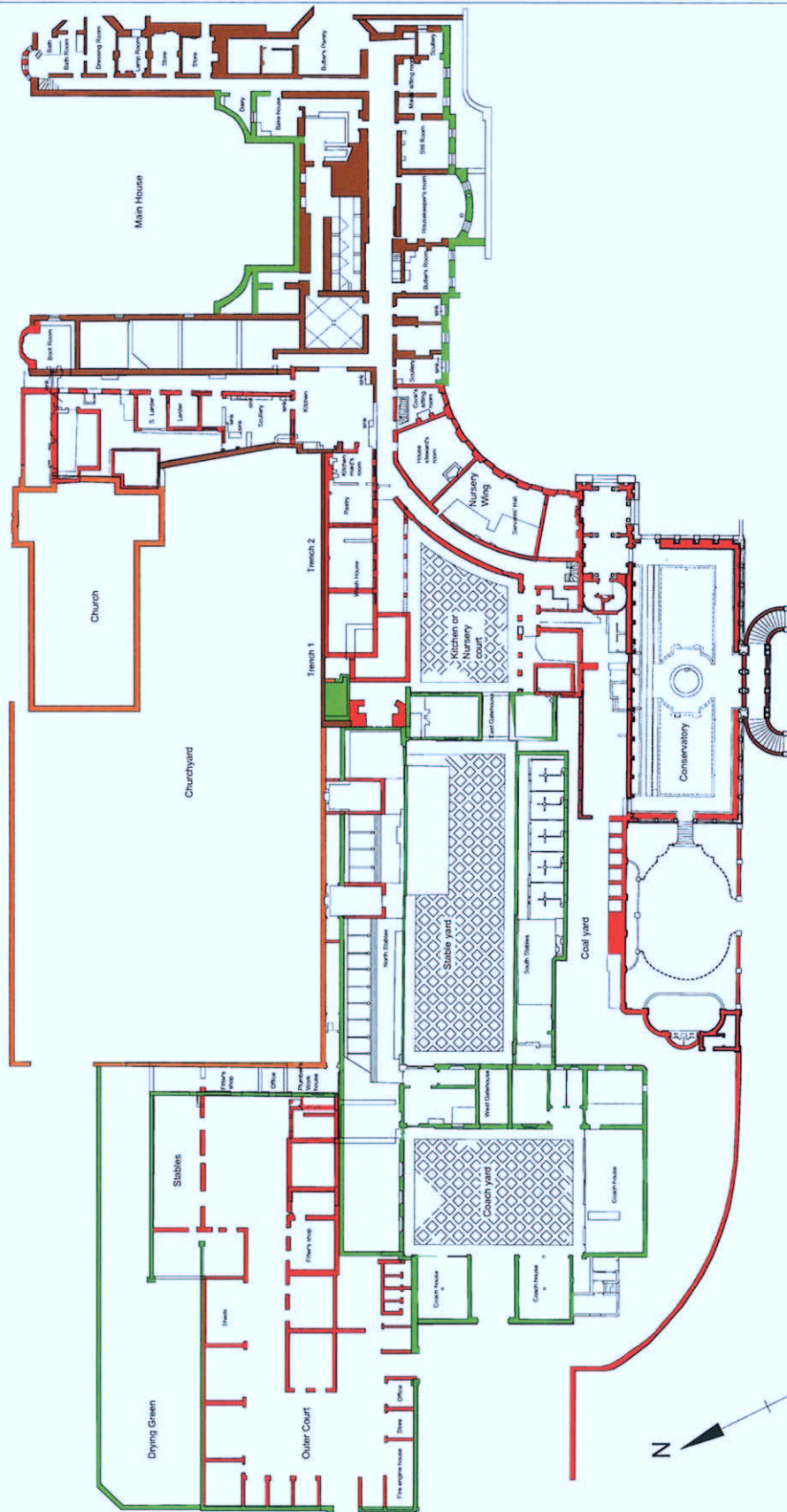
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- Trenches excavated by OA

**Title**  
Survey zones and works  
carried out by  
OA 2001 - 2002

Scale at A3

Drawing  
No.

Witley Court,  
Worcestershire  
GWWCBS



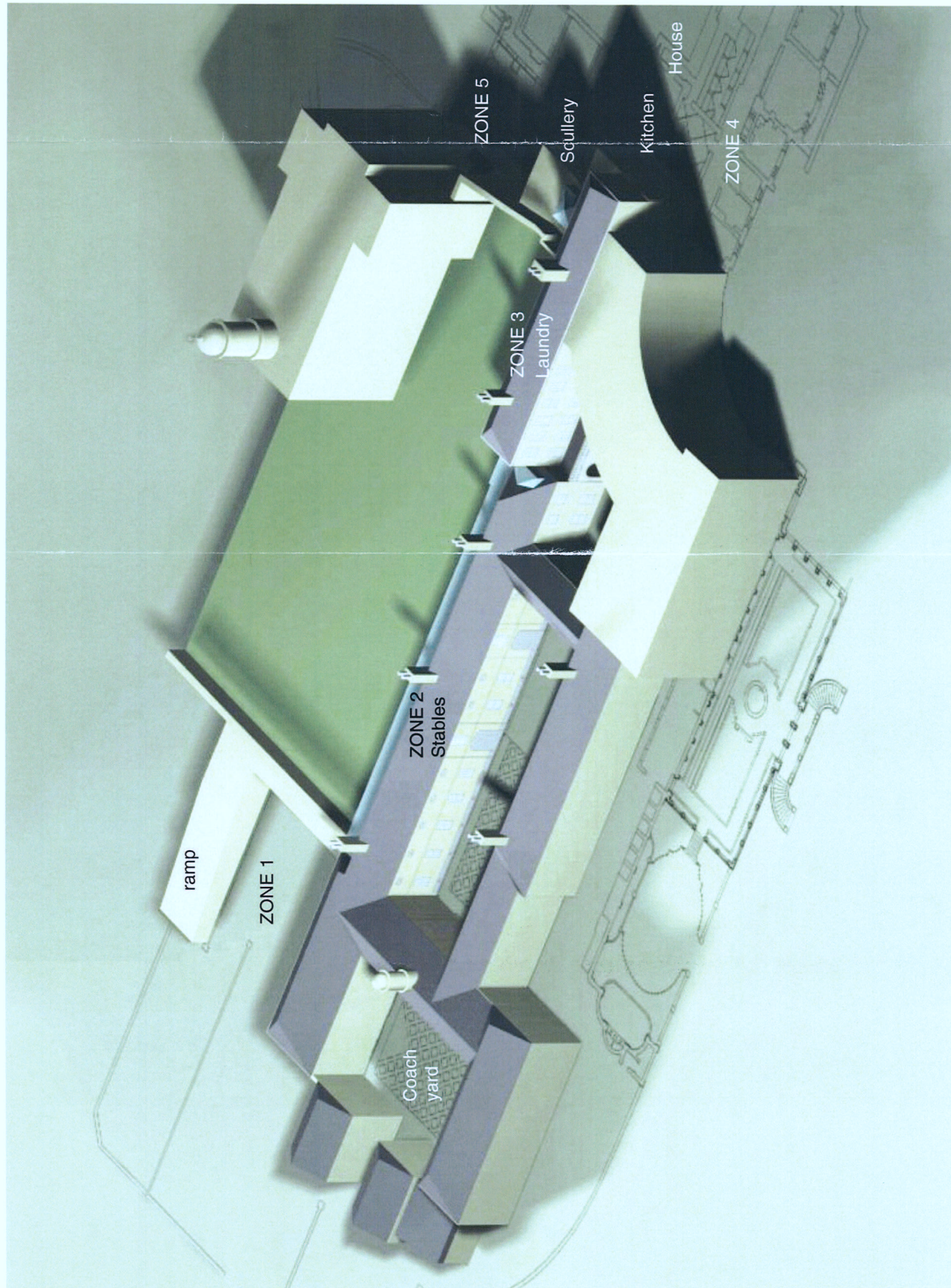
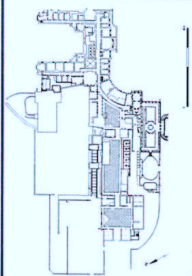
- Key
- Pre 1733
  - 1733 - 1800
  - 1800 - 1850
  - 1850 - 1890

Title  
Phased plan of Service Courts,  
partially based  
on plans of 1888  
(Dudley Archives and local history  
service)

Scale at  
A3  
1:500

Drawing  
No. Figure 3



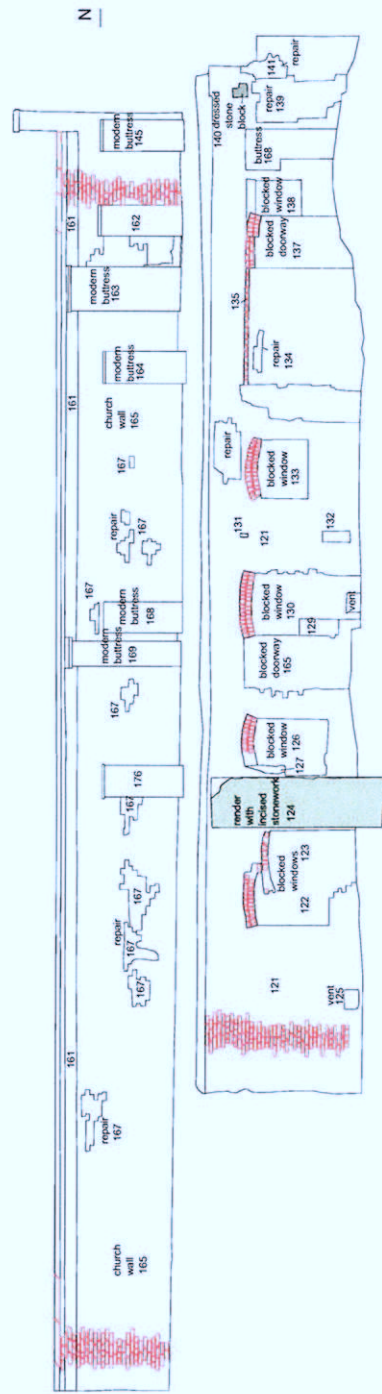
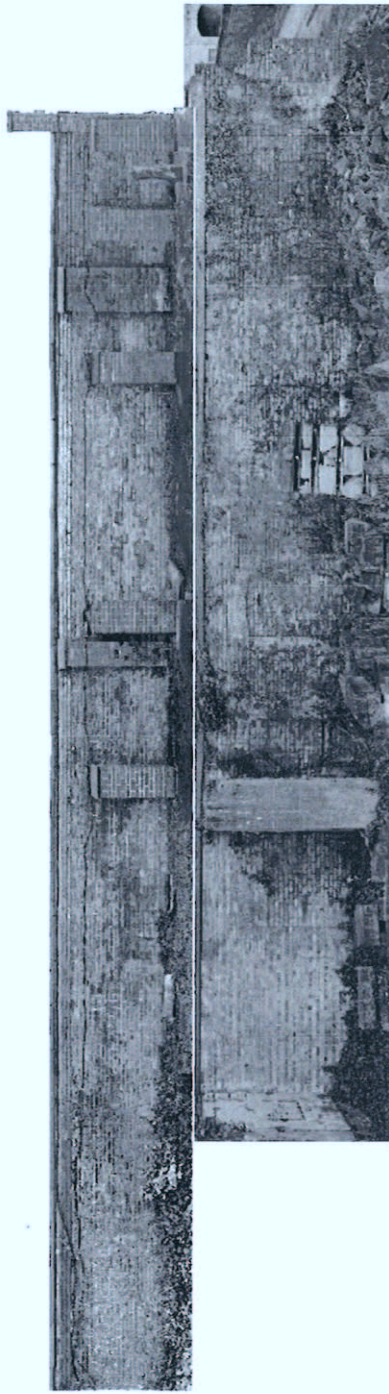
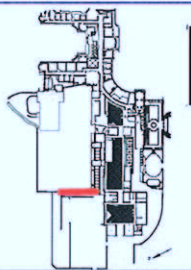


Title  
Reconstruction of the  
Service Courts,  
showing survey zones  
and main buildings.  
Some details have been omitted  
for clarity

Drawing  
No. Figure 4



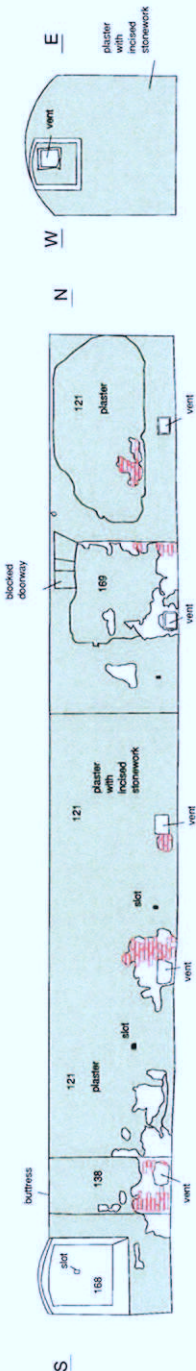
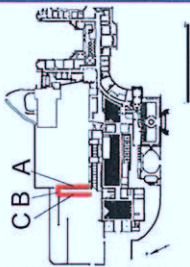
Witley Court,  
Worcestershire  
GWWCBS



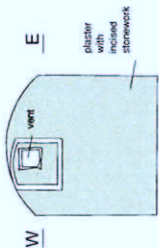
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East facing elevation  
of outer court.

Scale at  
A3  
1:100

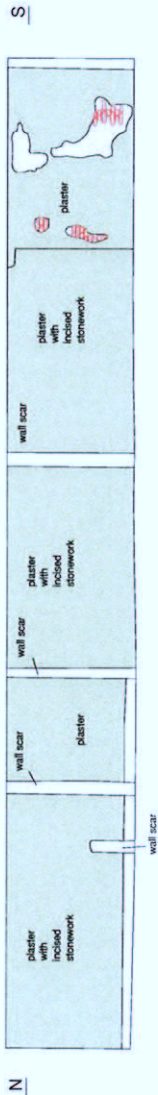
Drawing  
No.  
Figure 5



A - WEST ELEVATION



B - NORTH ELEVATION



C - EAST ELEVATION

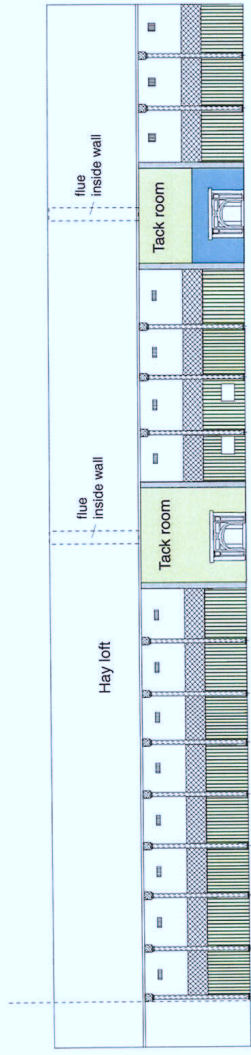
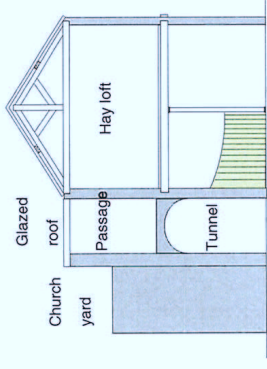
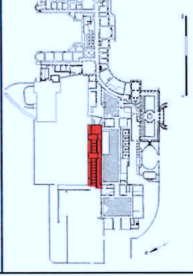


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East and west internal  
elevations of the  
tunnel.

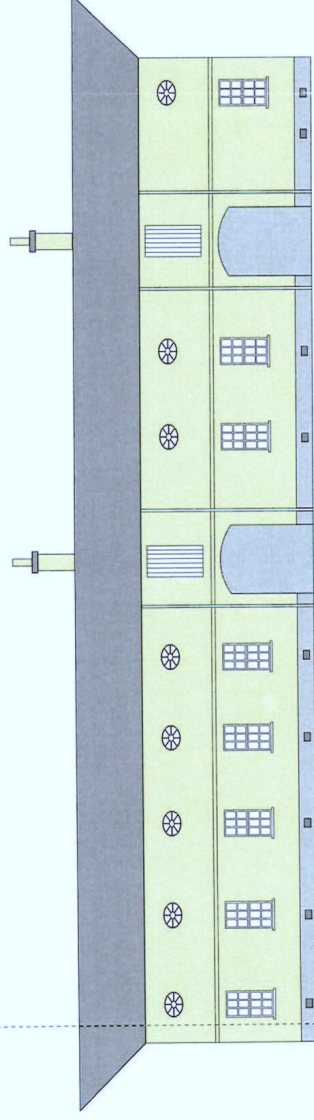
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Drawing  
No. Figure 6

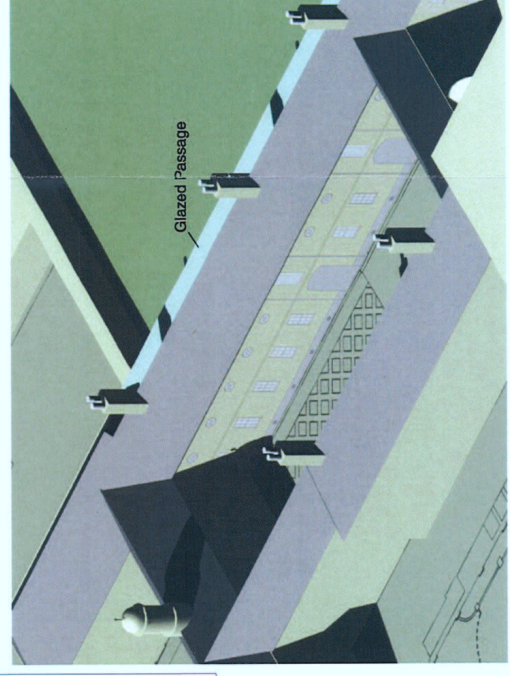
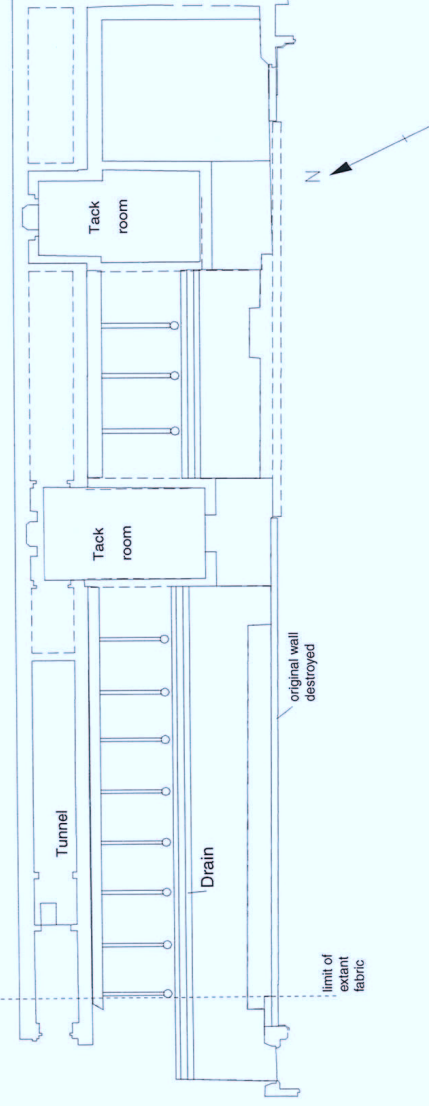




North Stables Interpretative Section



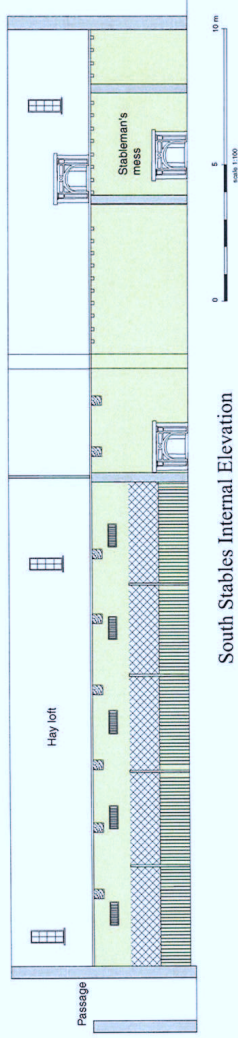
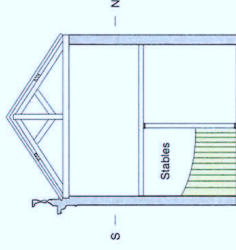
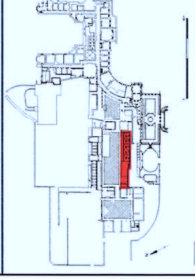
North Stables South Elevation



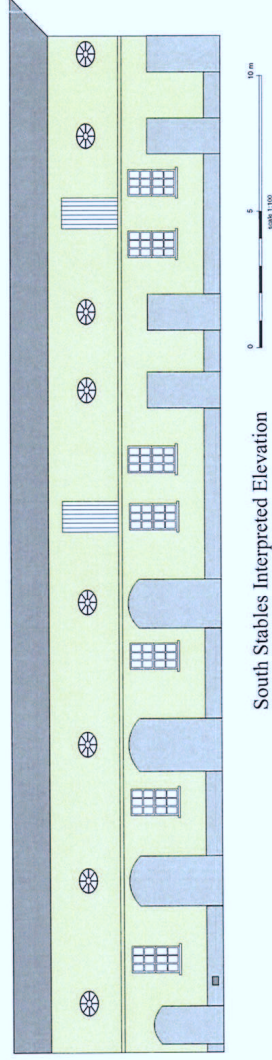
The Service Court in 1936

Title  
Zone 2  
The North Stables  
reconstructions  
details of doors and windows, etc.  
taken from pre-War photos of the  
yard and 1937 aerial photograph  
(Hughes 1999)

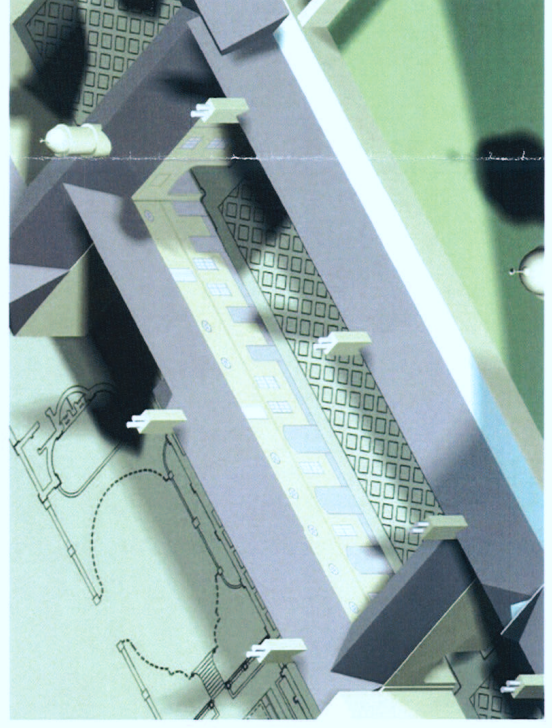
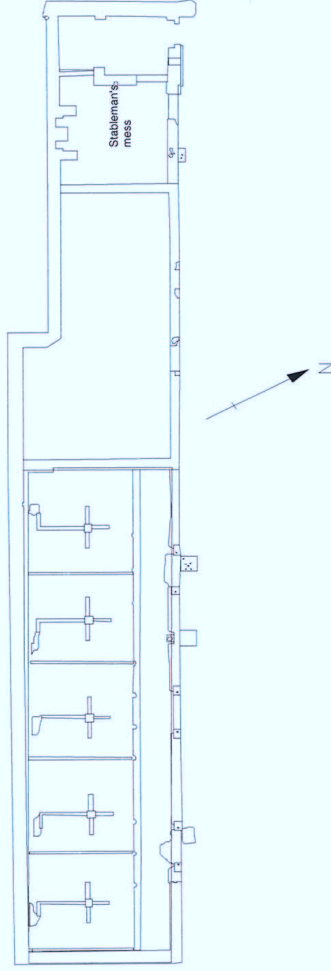
Drawing  
No.  
Figure 7



South Stables Internal Elevation



South Stables Interpreted Elevation



The Service Court in 1936

Title

Zone 3

South Stables

reconstructions

Interior elevation extrapolated from surviving features and post-demolition photos (1950s NMR, Swindon). Exterior elevation based on historic photographs and archaeological evidence (Hughes 1999).

Drawing No.

Figure 8

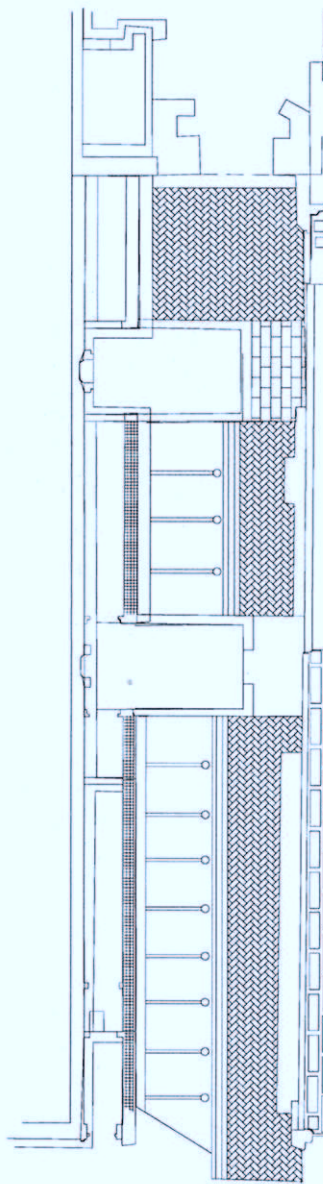
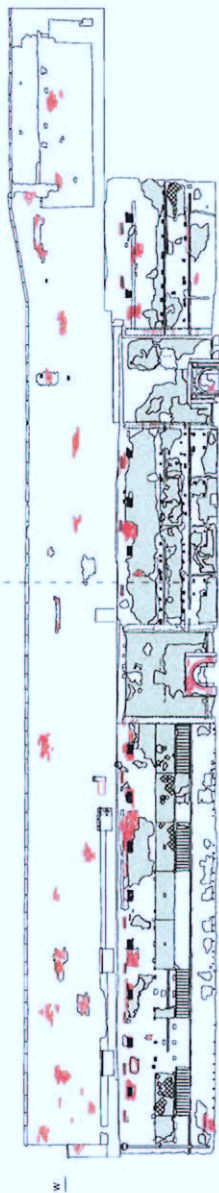
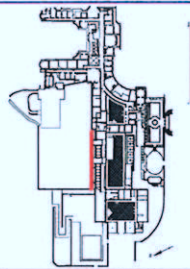
Oxford Archaeology

Janus House,  
Osney Mead,  
Oxford,  
OX2 0ES.





Witley Court,  
Worcestershire  
GWWCBS

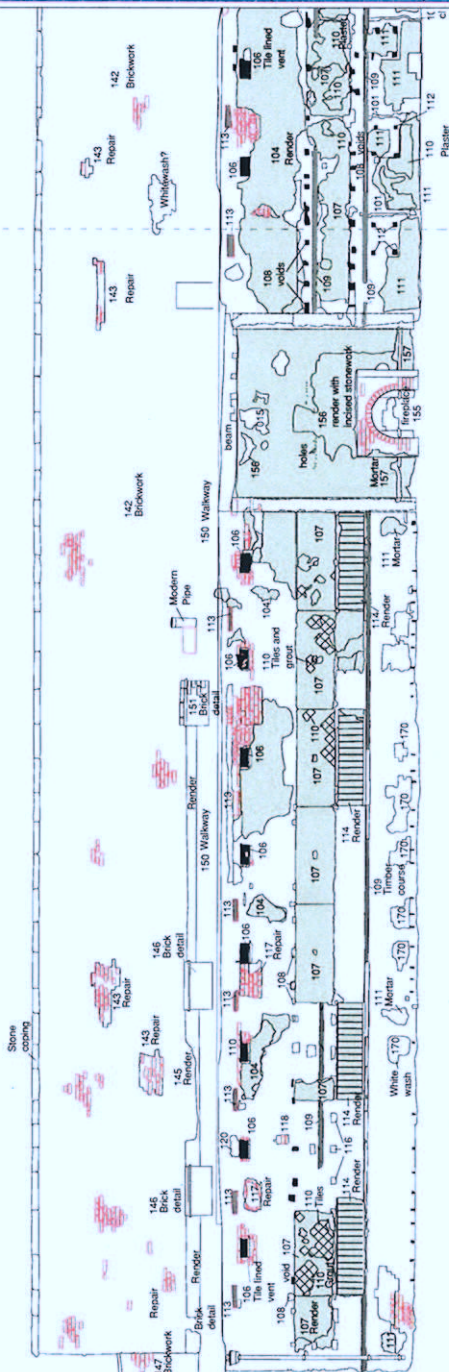
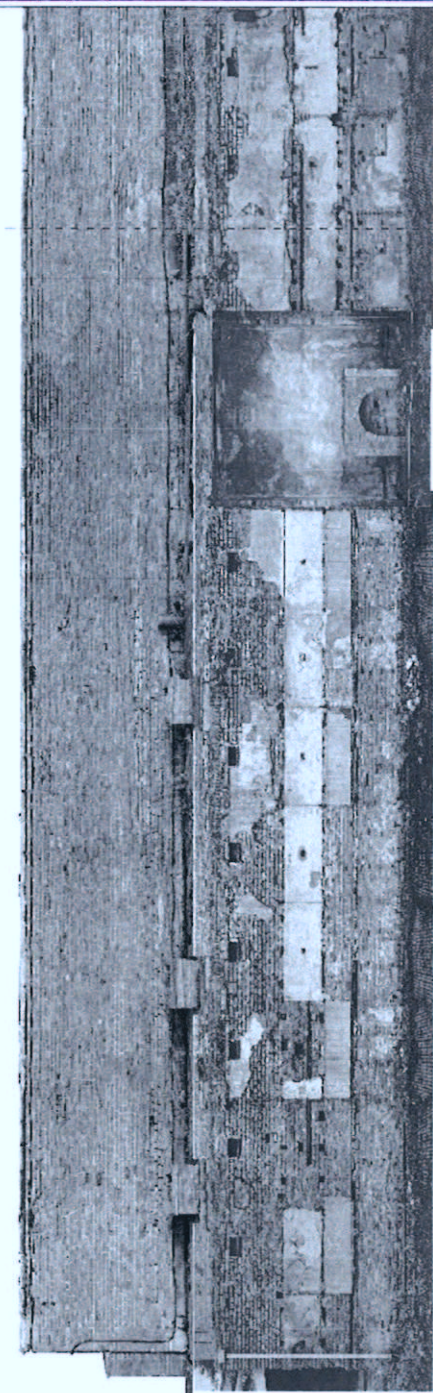
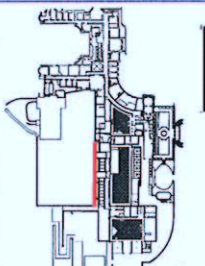


Title  
Overall view of the  
north stables, elevation  
and plan.

Scale at  
A3  
1:200

Drawing  
No. Figure 9

Witley Court,  
Worcestershire  
GWWCBS



W

Title

West end of the north  
stables.

cale at  
A3

1:100

Drawing No.

Figure 10

Oxford Archaeology

Janus House,  
Osney Mead,  
Oxford.  
OX2 0ES.

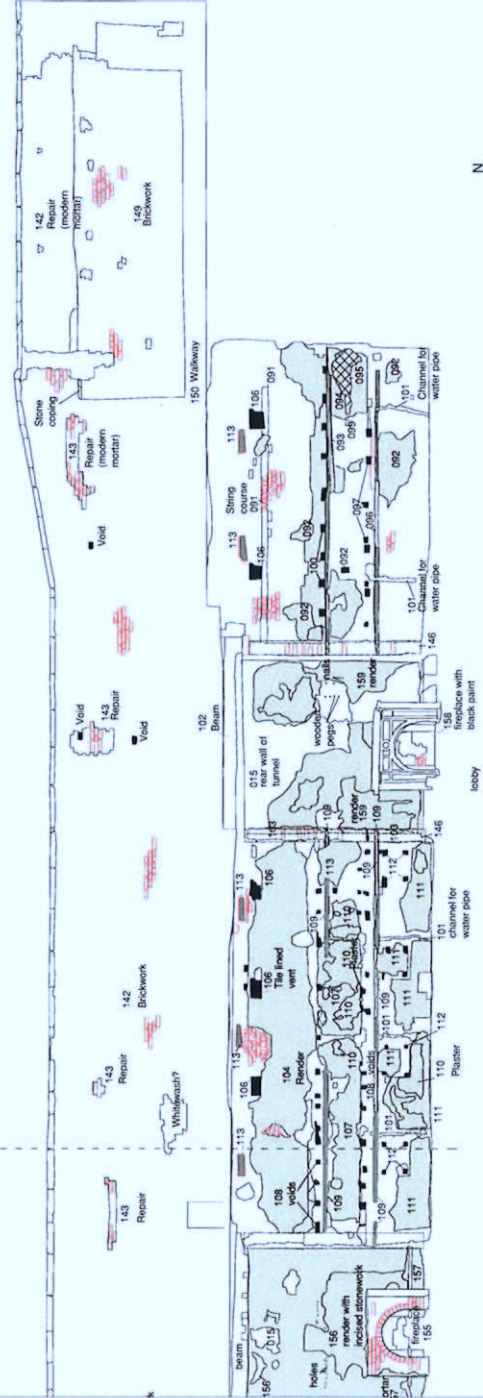
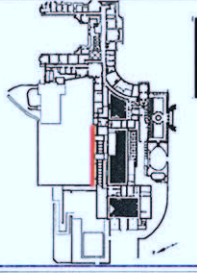
Tel: 01 845 243800 [enrol@medbridgelearning.co.uk](mailto:enrol@medbridgelearning.co.uk)  
www.medbridgelearning.co.uk

Q

10m



Witley Court,  
Worcestershire  
GWWCBS



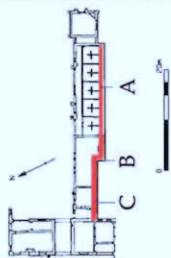
Title  
East end of the north  
stables.

Scale at  
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Drawing  
No. Figure 11

Oxford Archaeology  
Janus House,  
Osney Mead,  
Oxford,  
OX2 0ES.





Key

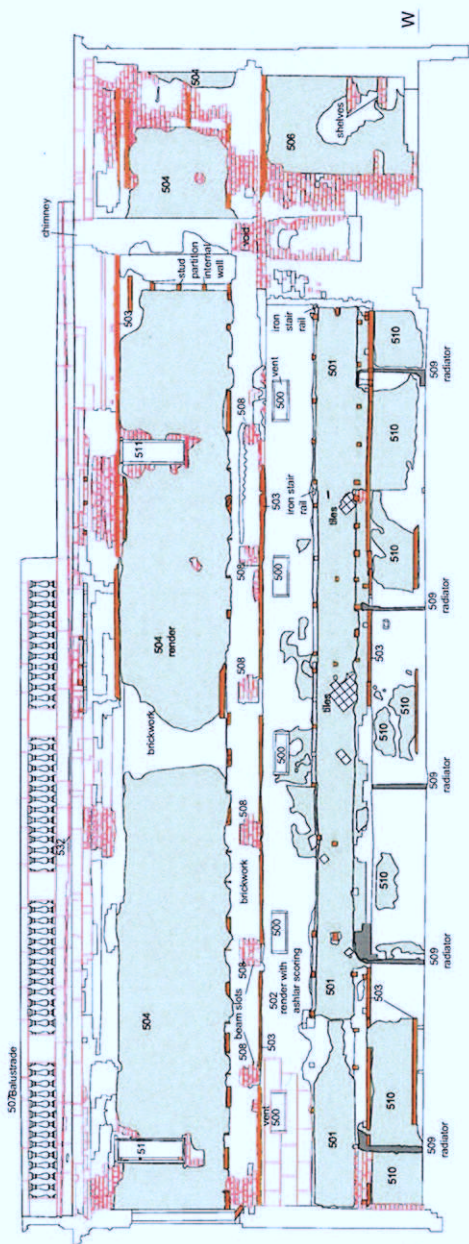
- Flue
- Wood
- Iron box
- Render
- Perpendicular walls

Title

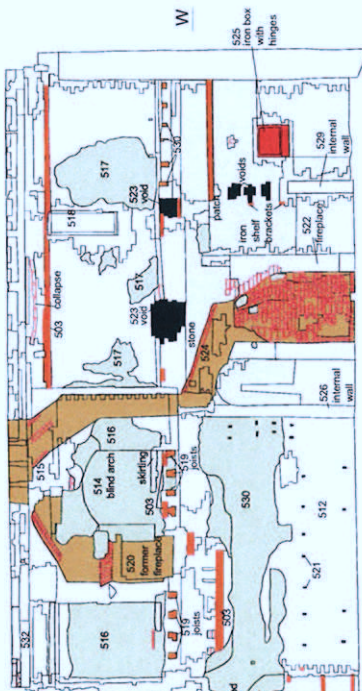
The south stables,  
north elevations of  
the south wall.

Scale of  
A3  
1:100

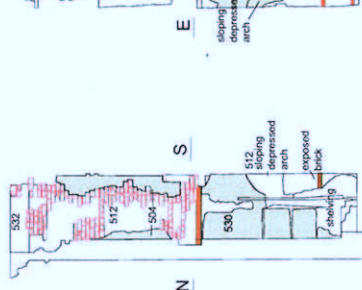
Drawing  
No. Figure 12



Elevation A

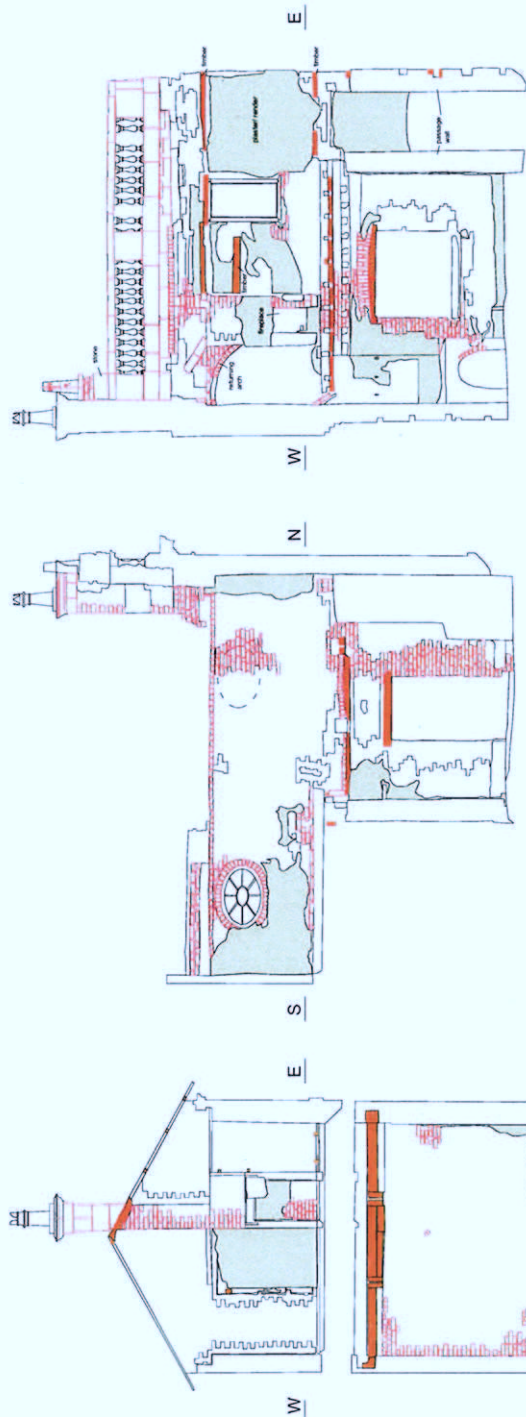


Elevation B



Elevation C

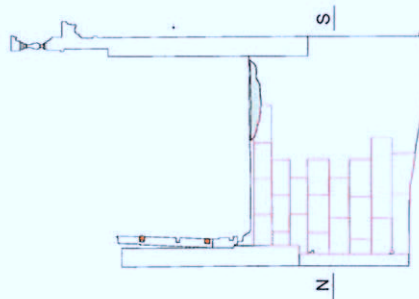
10m



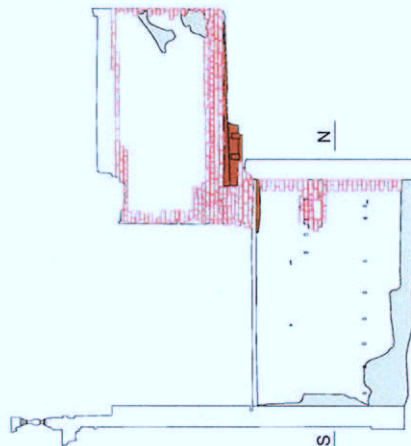
A - North wall, south face

B - East wall, east face

C - South wall, north face



E - West wall, west face



D - West wall, east face

Key  
Flue  
Wood  
Iron box  
Render  
Perpendicular walls

Title

The east gate house,  
internal faces and west  
face of west wall.

Scale at  
A3

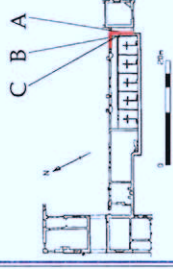
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Drawing  
No.

Figure 13



Witley Court,  
Worcestershire  
GW/WCBS



Key  
Flue  
Wood  
Iron box  
Render  
Perpendicular walls

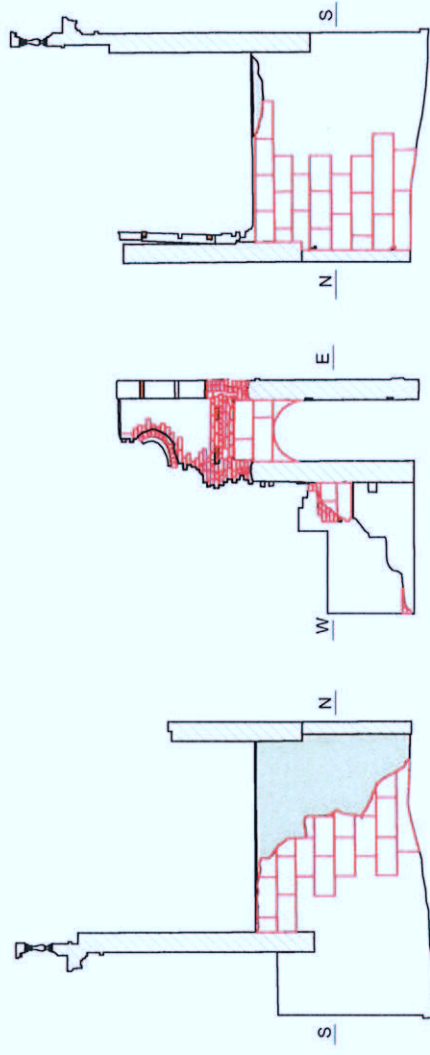
Title

Surviving elements of  
the south stables.

Scale at  
A3  
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Drawing  
No. Figure 14

Oxford Archaeology  
Janus House,  
Osney Mead,  
Oxford,  
OX2 0ES.



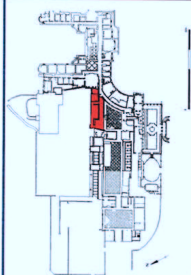
C - East wall, west face

B - North wall, north face

A - East wall, east face

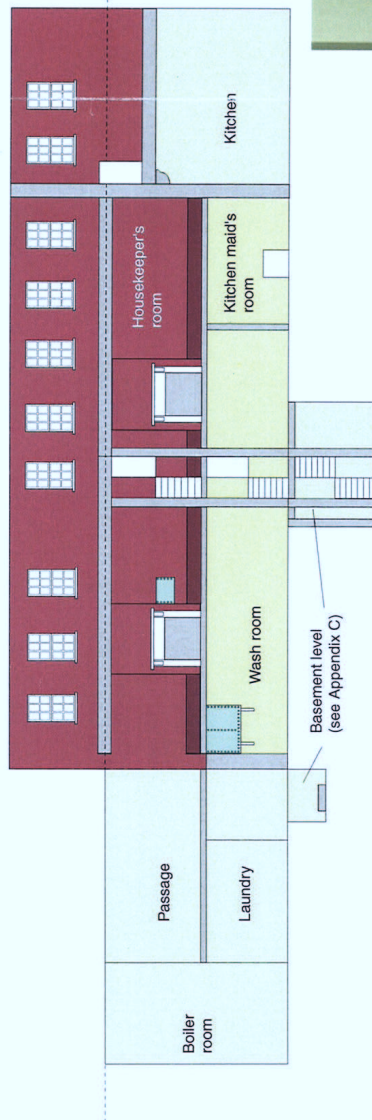
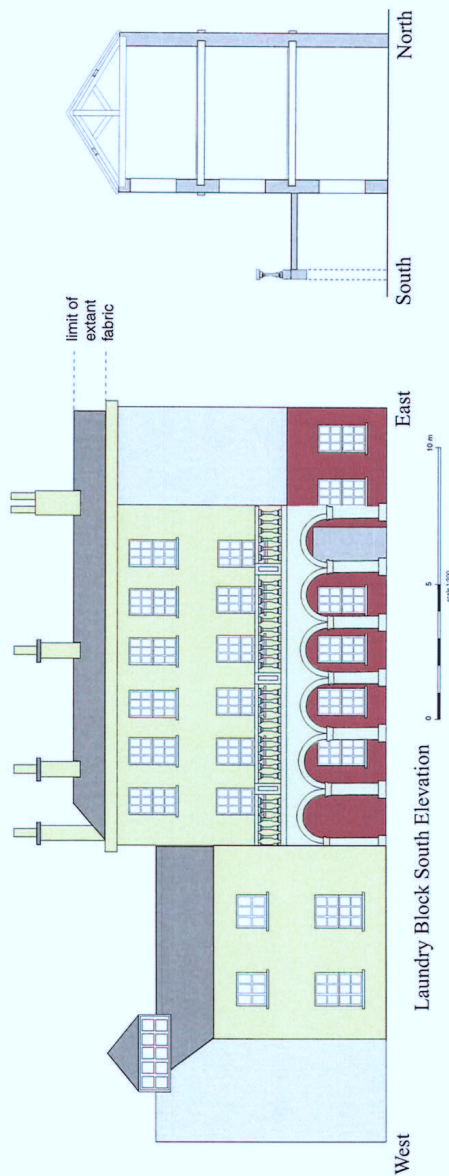






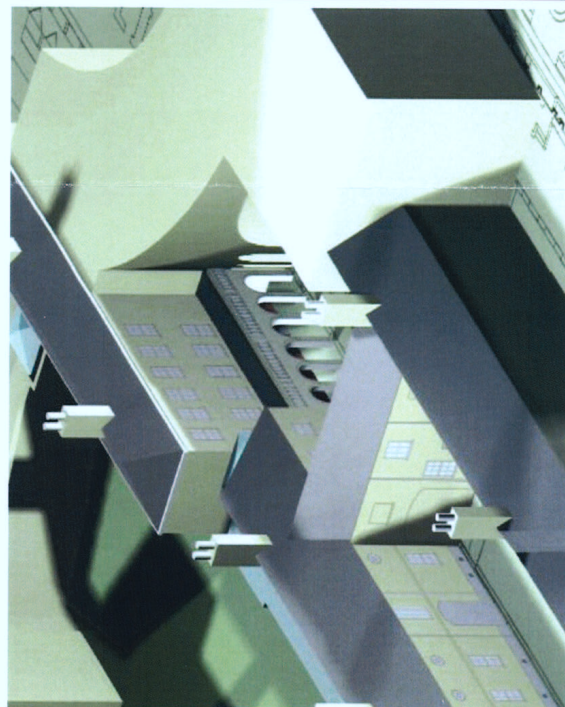
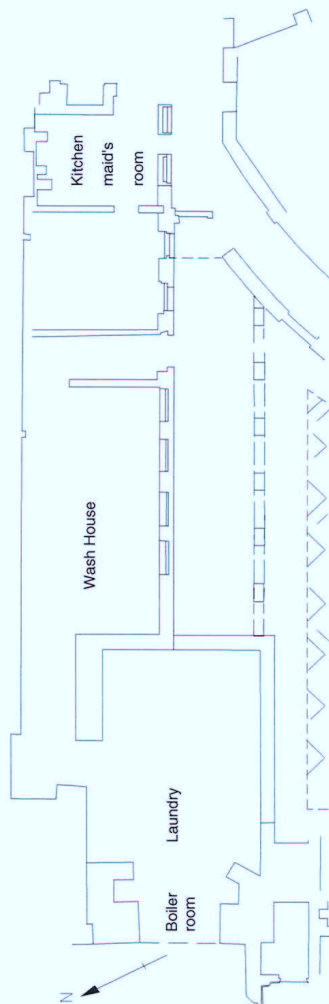
Title  
Zone 3  
Laundry Block

Drawing  
No.  
Figure 15



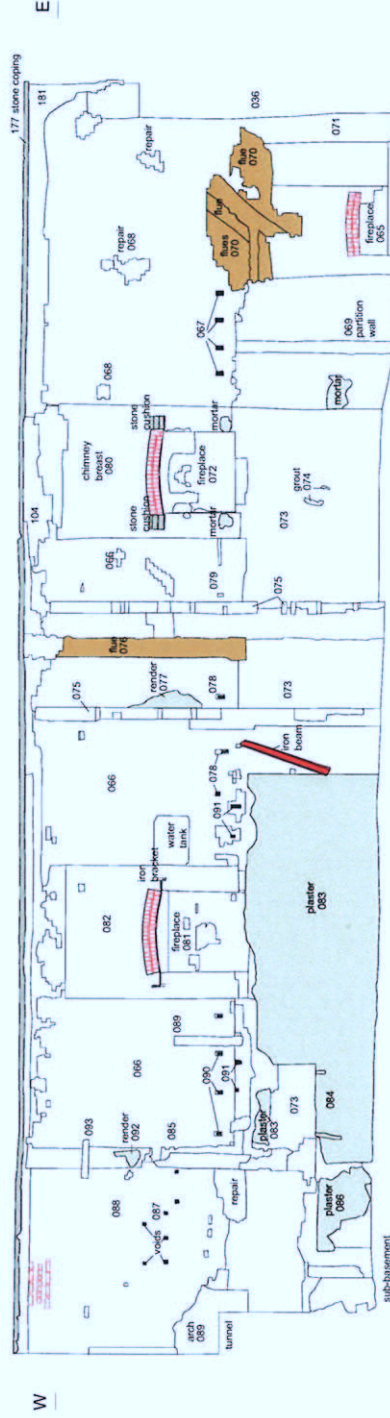
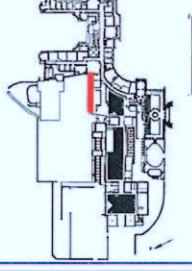
Floor entirely demolished and has been reconstructed from historic photographs and drawings. Certain details have been omitted for clarity.

Laundry Block Interpretative Section

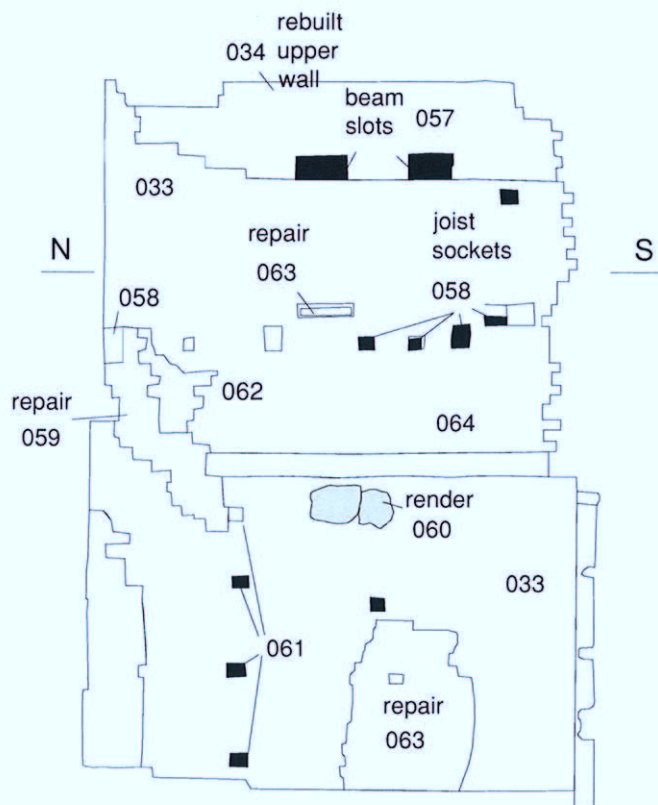
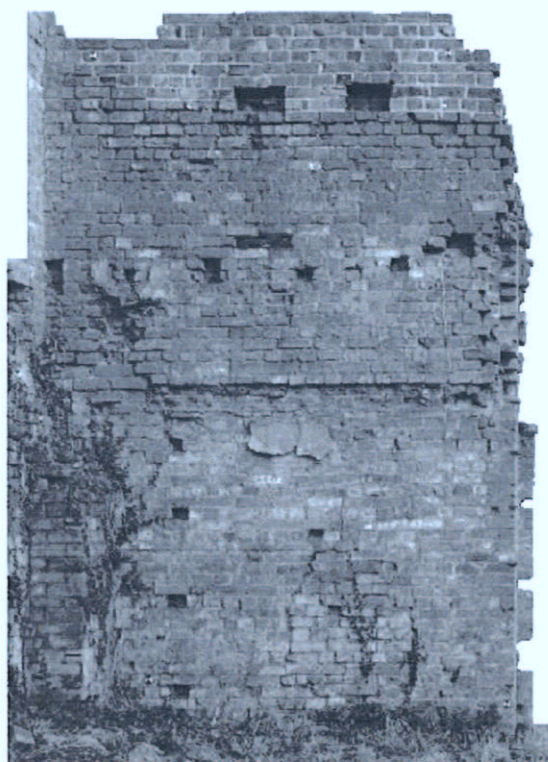


The Kitchen Court in 1936

Witley Court,  
Worcestershire  
GWWCBS



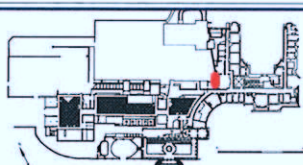




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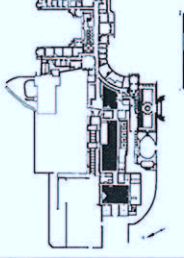
Witley Court,  
Worcestershire  
GW/CBS

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Scale at  
A3  
1:50

Title  
East wall of  
laundry  
Drawing  
No. Figure 17



Title

Kitchen Court, north  
arcade,  
as standing 2002

Scale at  
A3

1:50

Drawing  
No.

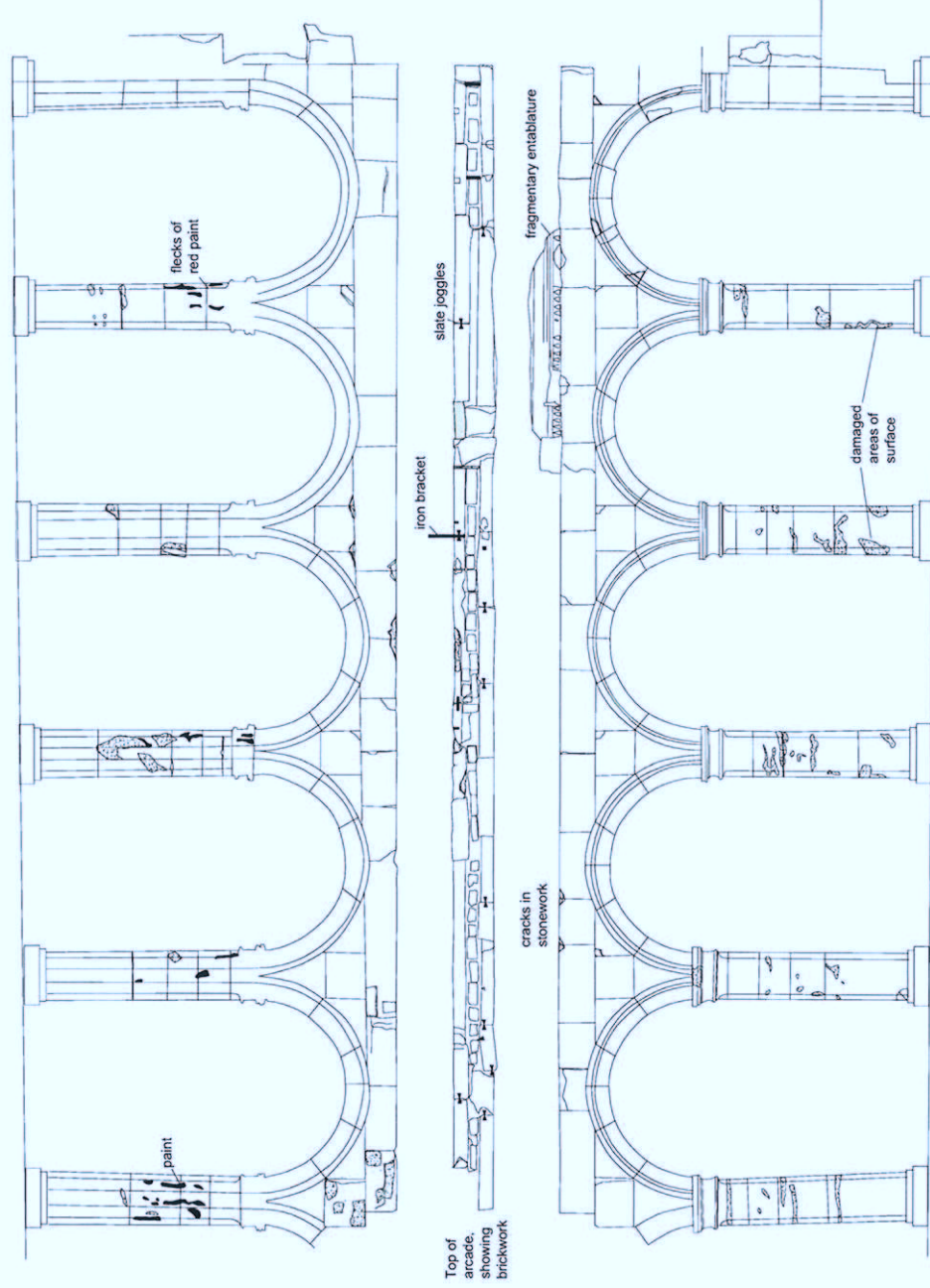
Figure 18

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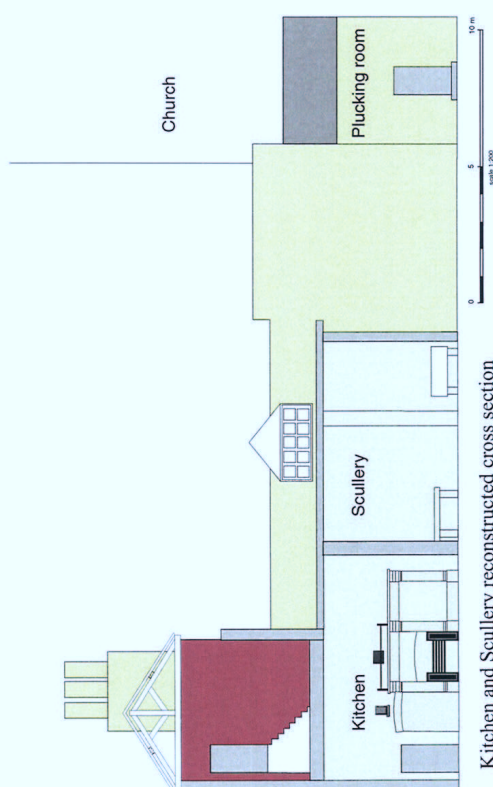
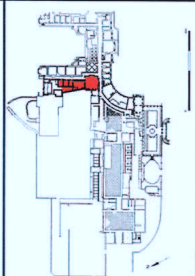


tel: 01865 212300 fax: 01865 212301  
www.oxfordarchaeology.co.uk

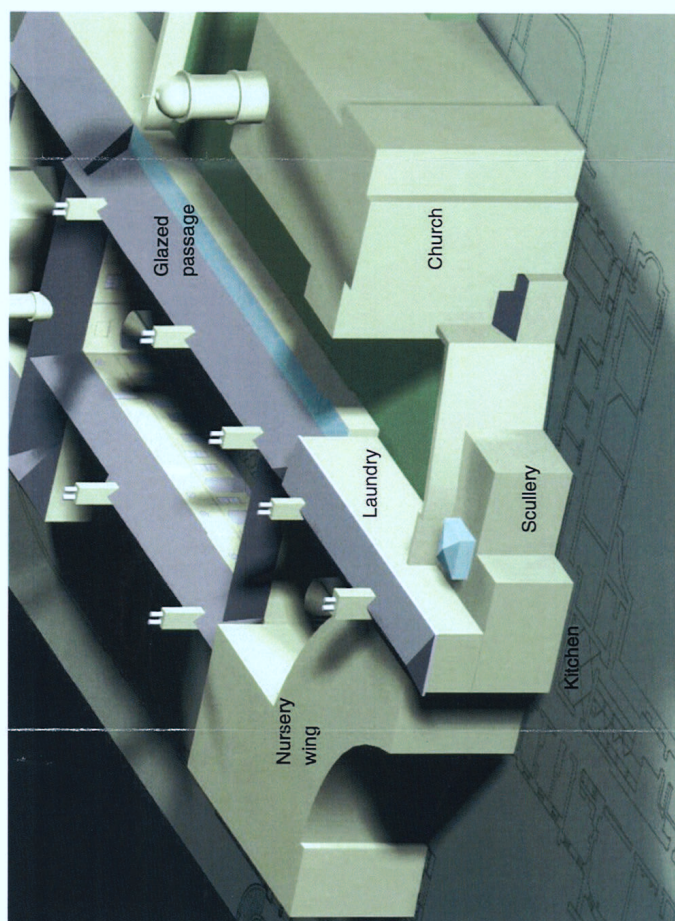
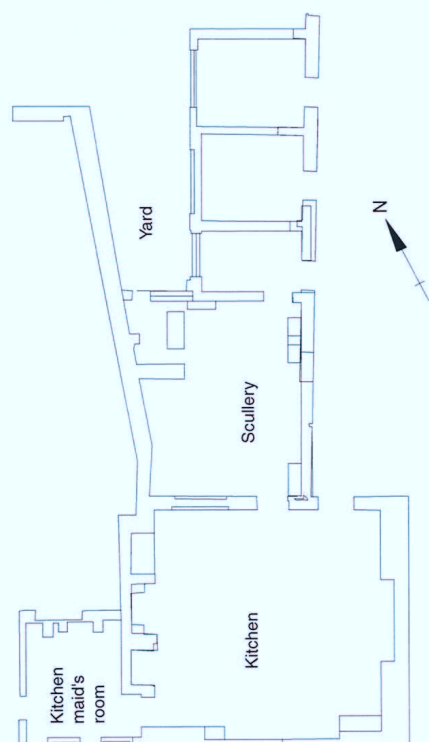


South Elevation, Kitchen Court





Kitchen and Scullery reconstructed cross section



The Kitchen Area in 1936

Title

Zones 4 and 5  
The kitchen and  
scullery yard

This area is unrepresented on  
historic photos or illustrations. The  
reconstruction is based on  
archaeological evidence of the study  
area, main house and nursery wing.

Drawing  
No.

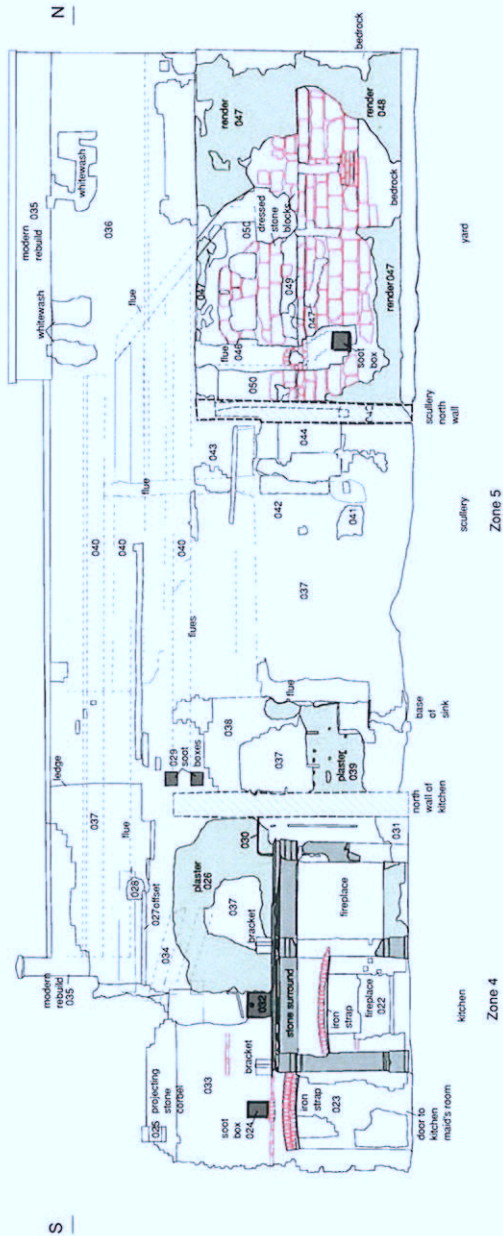
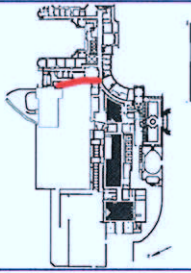
Figure 19

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- Key
- Flue
  - Wood
  - Iron box
  - Render
  - Perpendicular walls

Title  
East facing internal  
elevation of the  
kitchen and east  
churchyard wall.

Scale at  
A3  
1:100

Drawing  
No.  
Figure 20



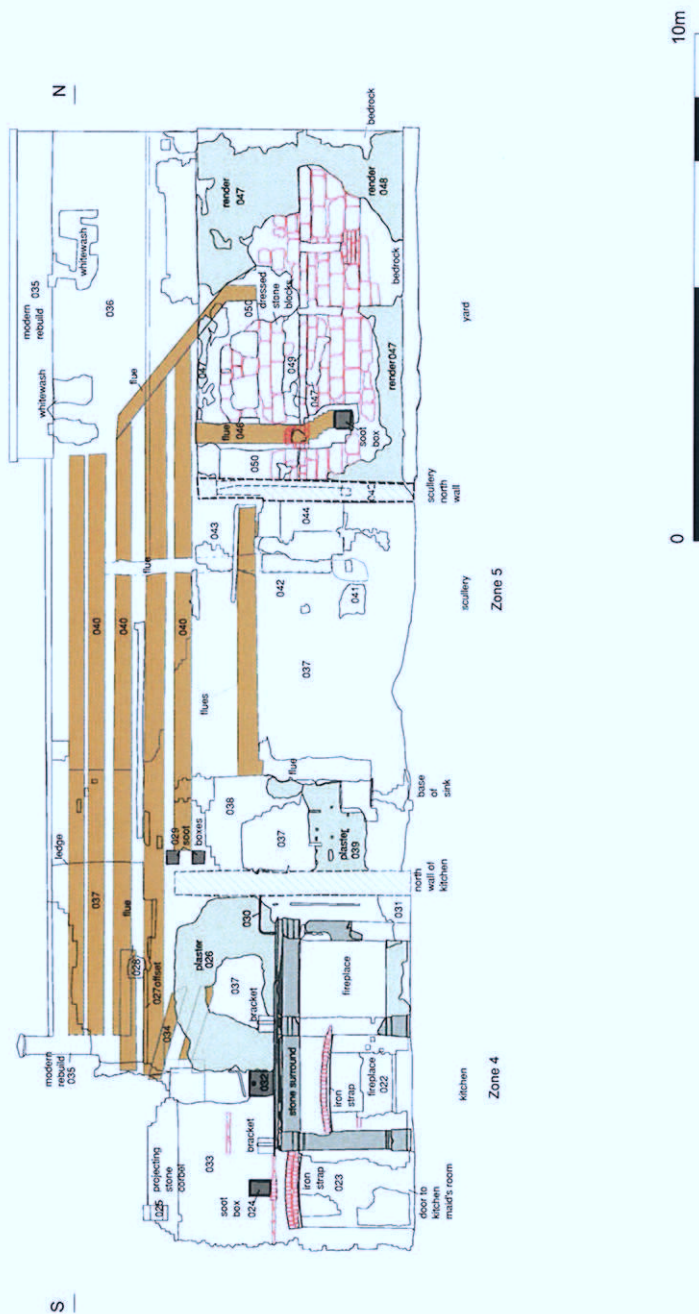
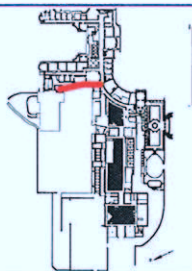







Figure 21

Drawing No.

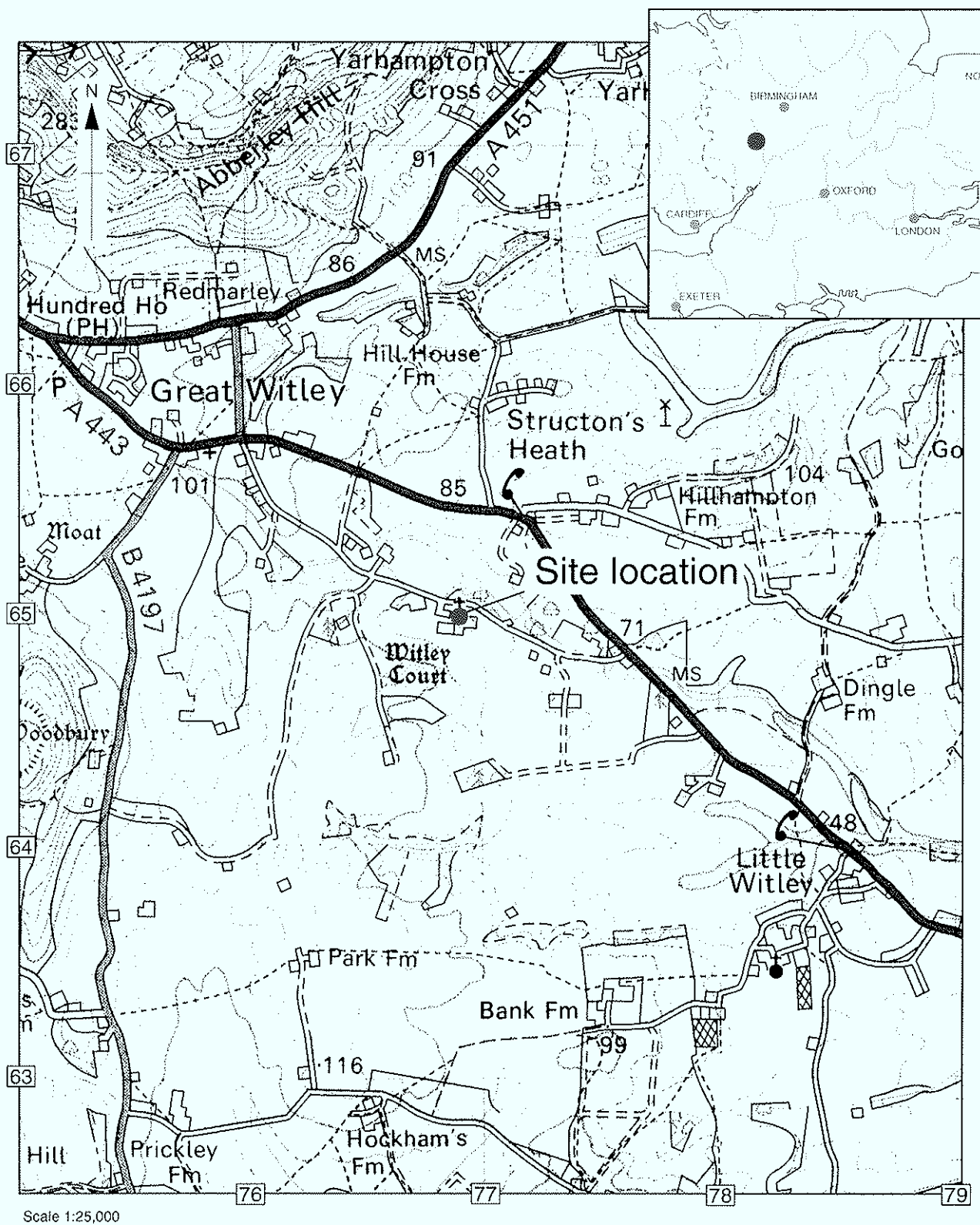
Scale at  
A3  
1:100

Title  
East facing internal  
elevation of the  
kitchen and east  
churchyard wall.

**Key**

	Flue
	Wood
	Iron box
	Render
	Perpendicular

**Oxford Archaeology**  
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Figure d: Site location

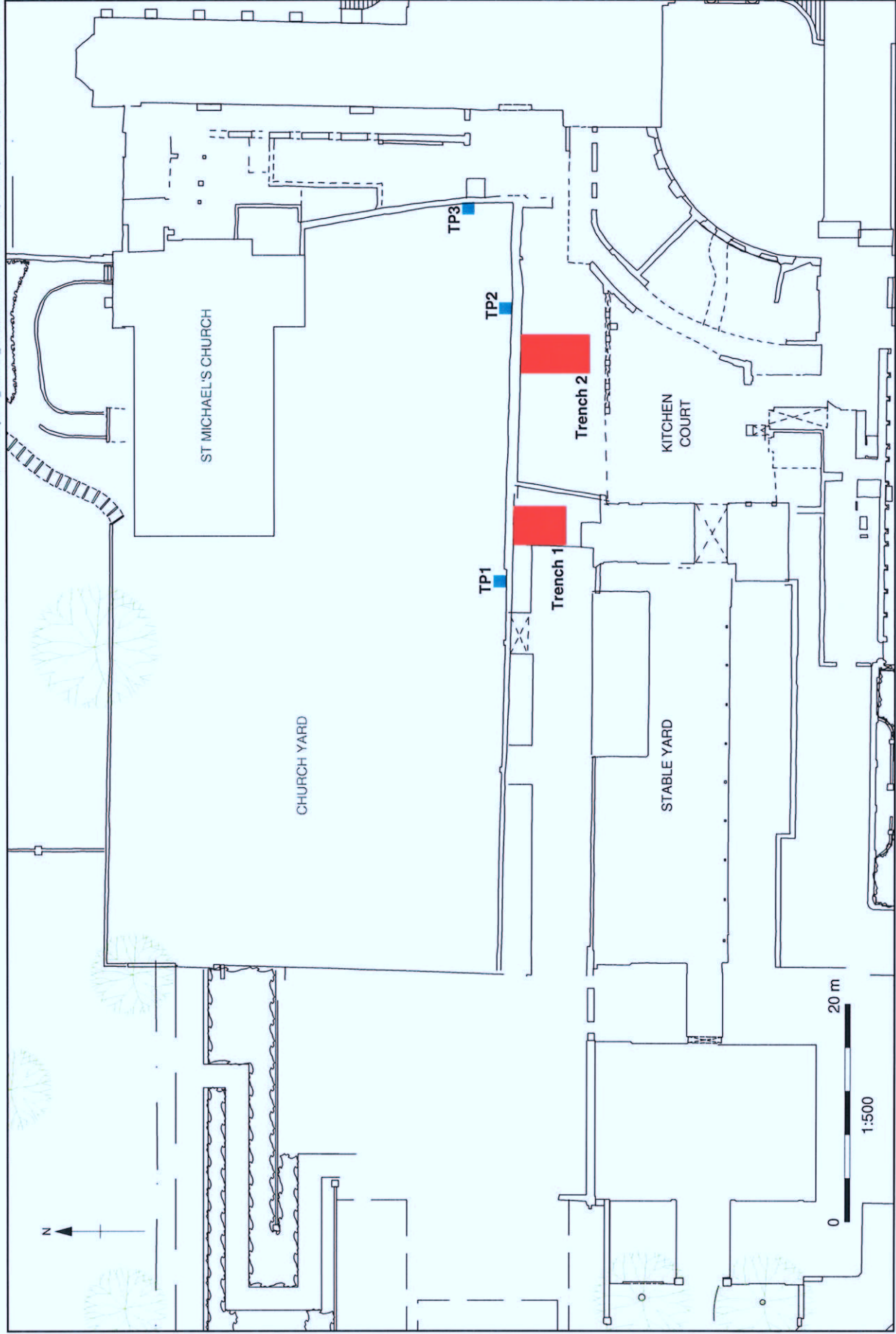


Figure C2: Testpit locations and trench locations



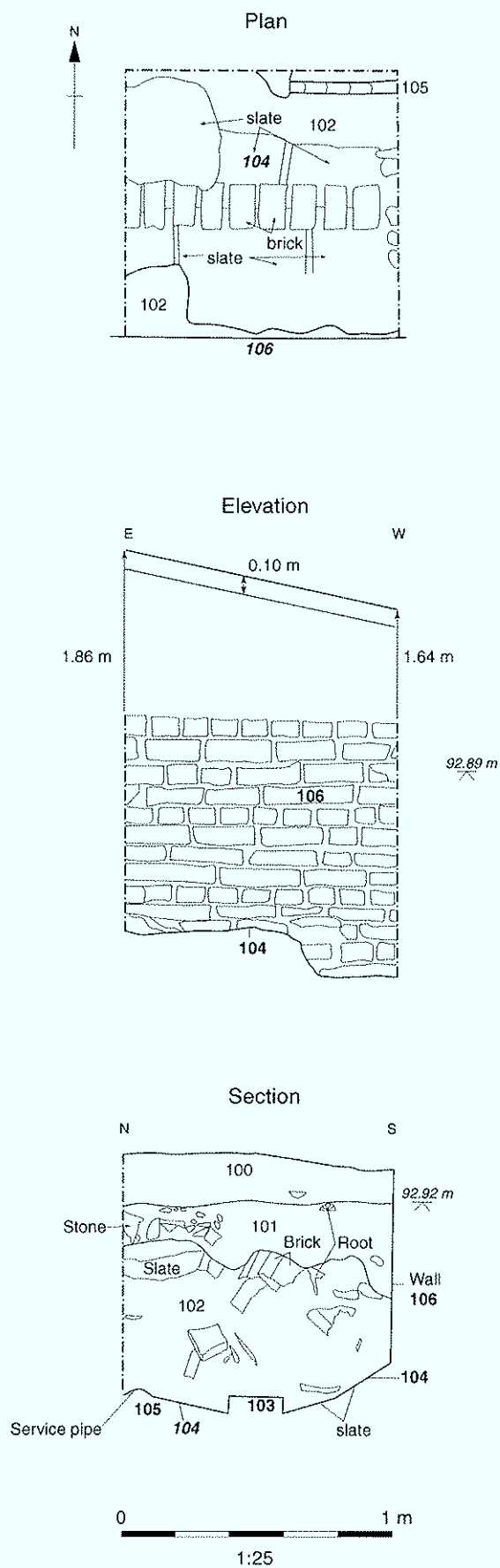


Figure C3: Test Pit 1



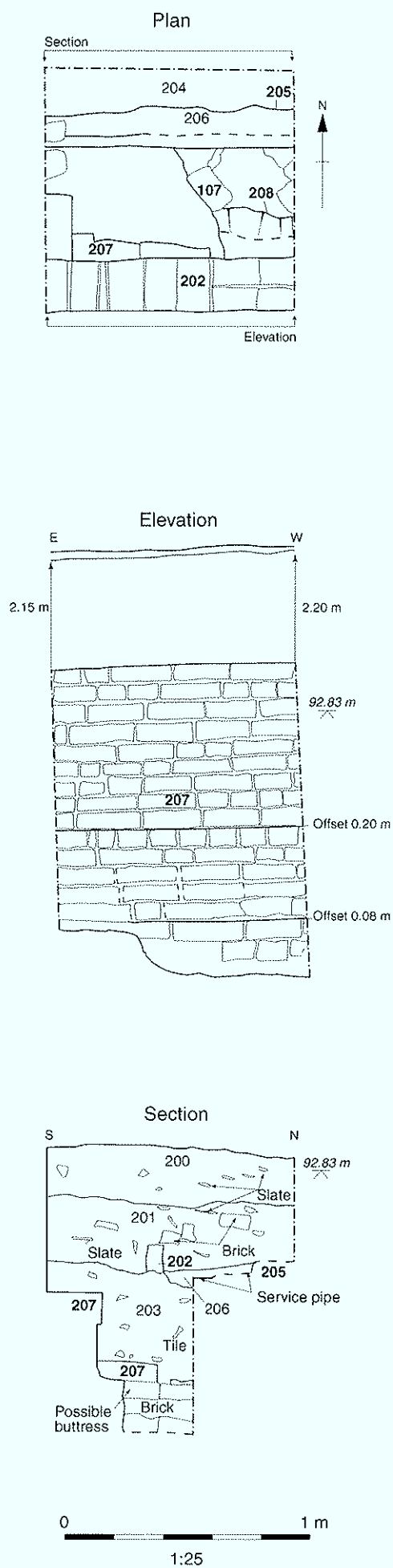


Figure C4: Test Pit 2

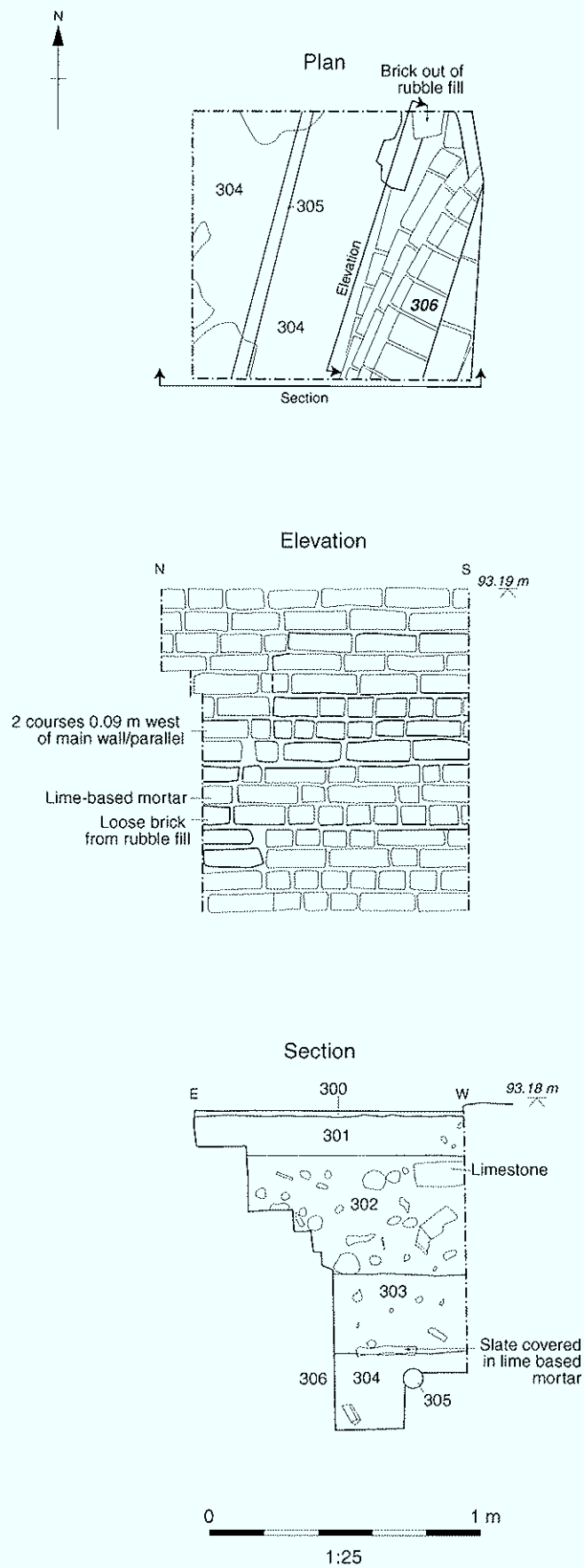
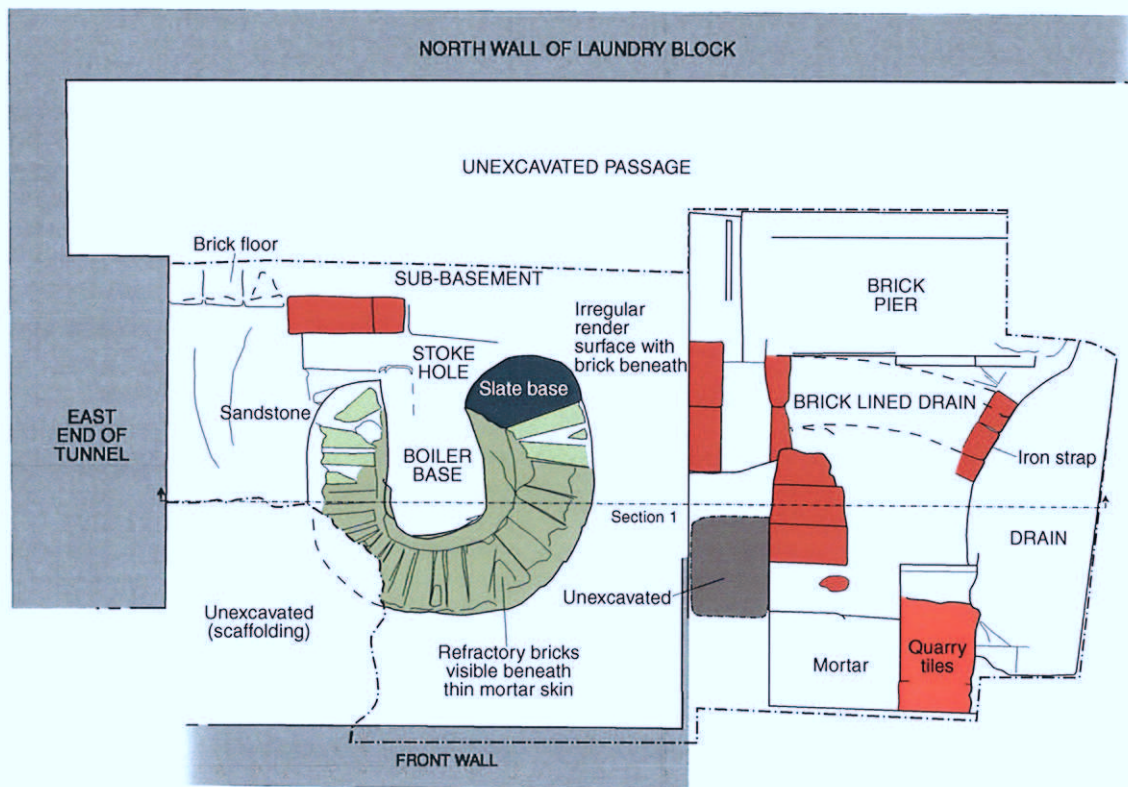


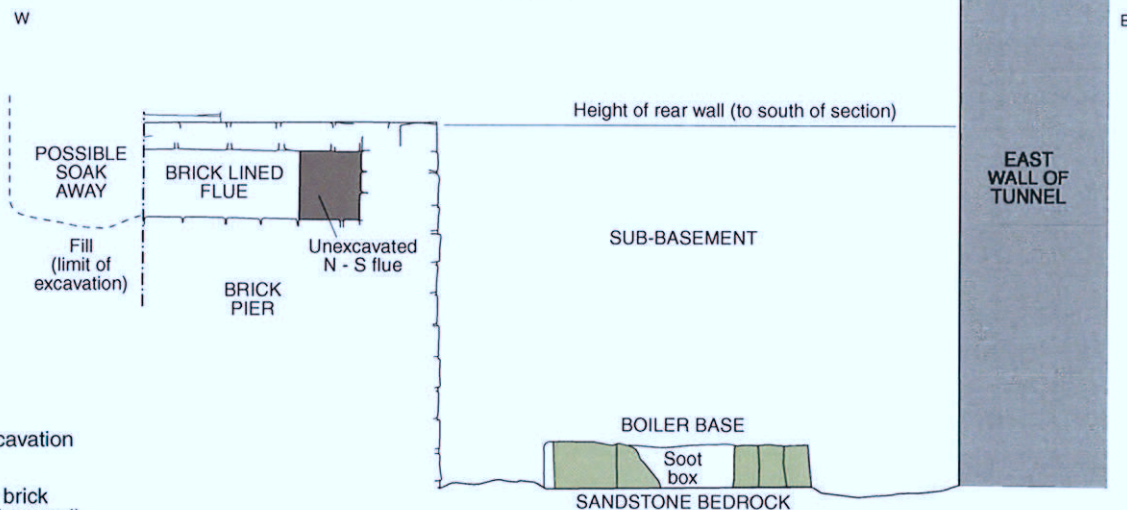
Figure C5: Test Pit 3



# Trench 1 Plan



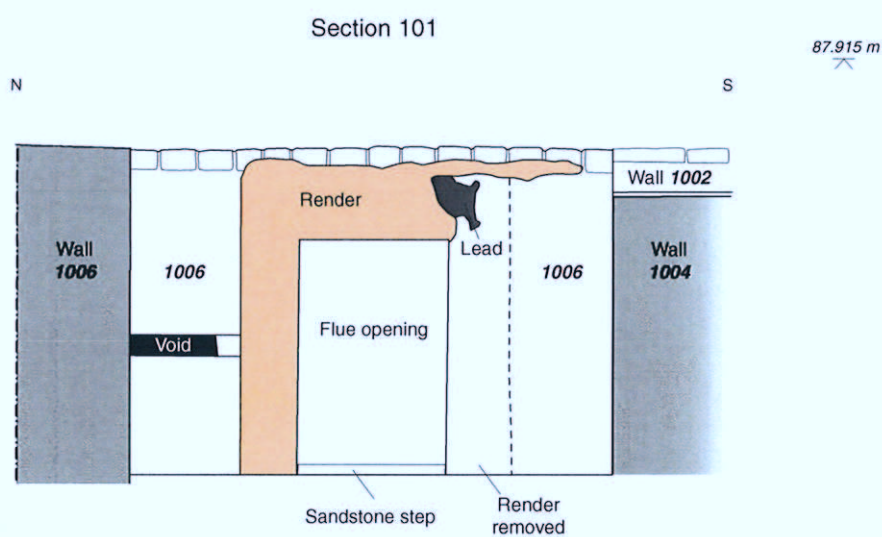
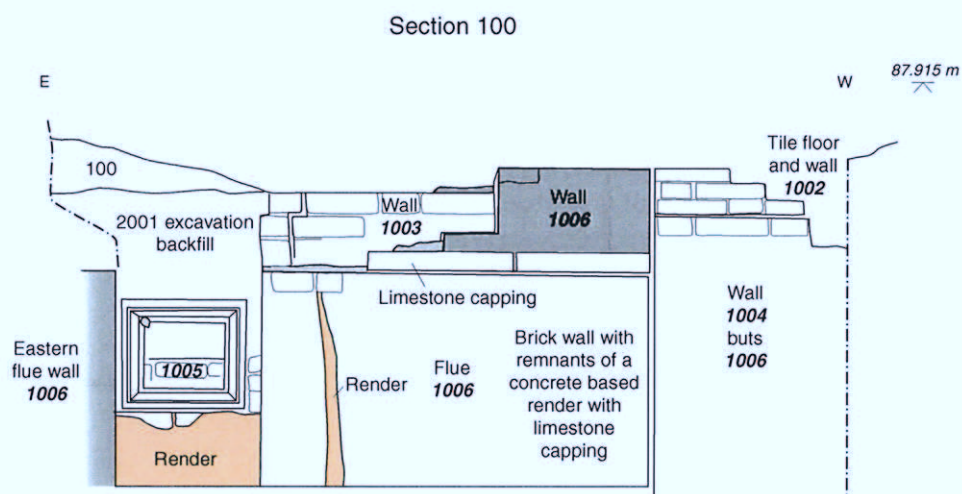
## Trench 1 Section 1



### Key:

- Limit of excavation
- Refractory brick (partially obscured)
- Brick boiler base (detail obscured by render skin)
- Brick
- Standing walls
- Quarry tiles
- Unexcavated
- Slate

Figure C6: Witley Court, Worcestershire. Trench 2: sub-basements



Key:

- Render
- Standing walls
- Lead
- Void

0 1 m  
1:25

Figure C7: Section 100 and 101



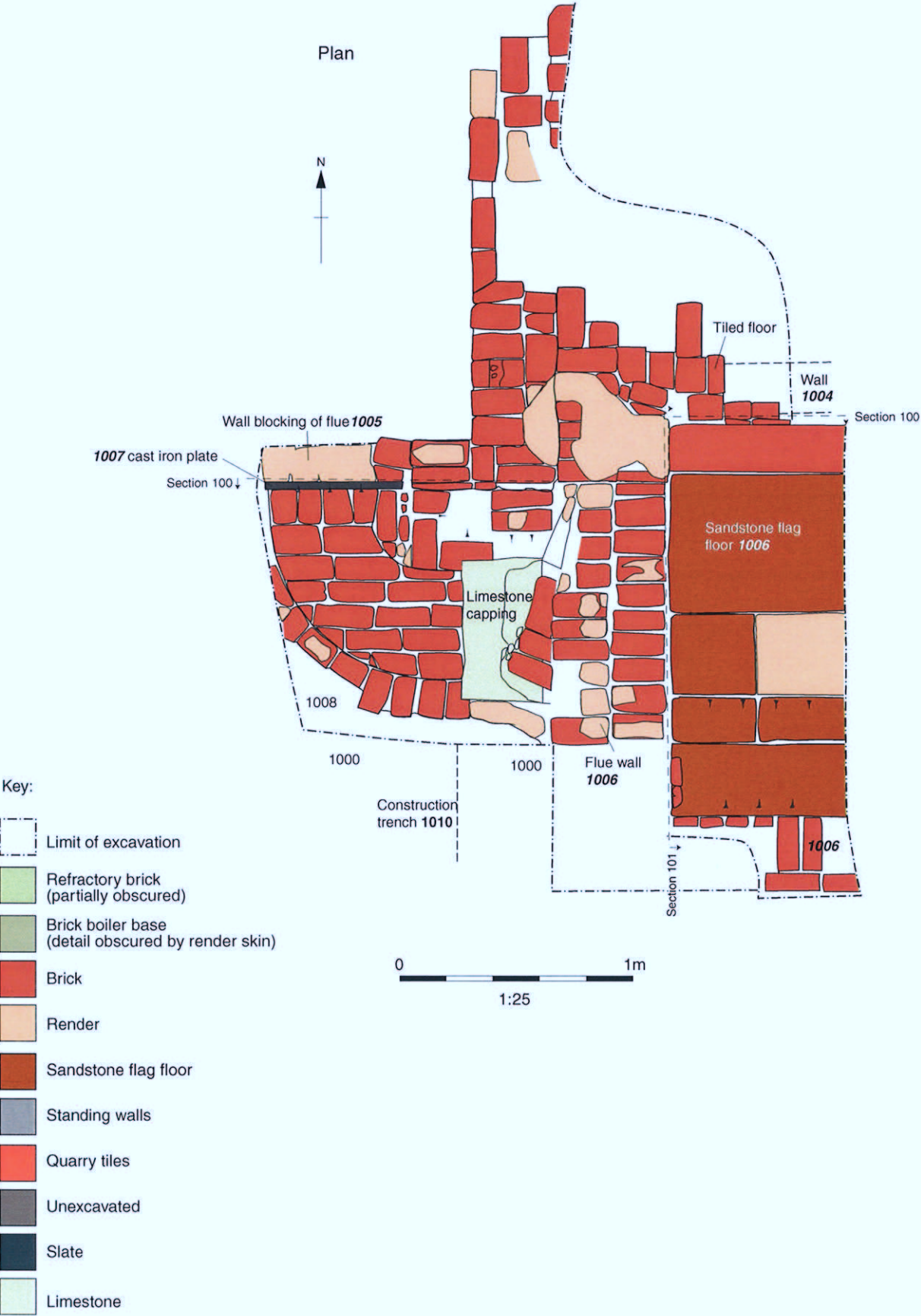


Figure C8: Plan



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